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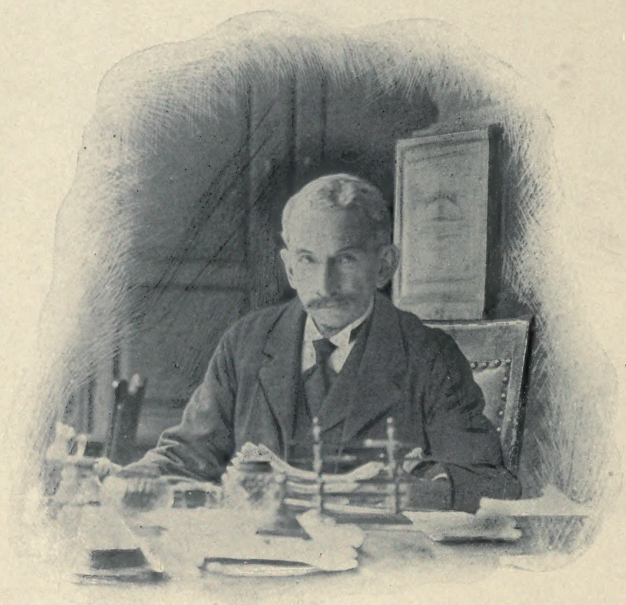


HALF A CENTURY WITH THE JOURNAL.









HENRY R. DAVIS,  
AT HIS DESK IN THE JOURNAL COUNTING ROOM.



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# HALF A CENTURY *with the* PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

BEING A RECORD OF THE EVENTS  
AND ASSOCIATES CONNECTED WITH  
THE PAST FIFTY YEARS OF THE LIFE OF

HENRY R. DAVIS

SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY

COMPILED AND ISSUED BY  
*Providence*  
THE JOURNAL COMPANY

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## Dedication.

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To Henry Richard Davis this volume is affectionately dedicated in behalf of the Journal workers, past and present. All who have come in contact with his gentle personality and sterling character have realized that they were being followed by him with friendly interest, whether they remained with the paper or not, so that the bond uniting them has been kept strong by the success of his desire to keep in touch with them. Fifty years ago he entered the service of the Journal, and since then he has come to be the one person most intimately associated in the minds of the majority of the Journal's friends with their recollections of the paper while during the half century he has been the connecting influence that has tended to unite the succession of proprietors and preserve the continuity of the management. Modest under responsibility, sweet-tempered amid vexations, in his industry, fidelity, and loyalty he has been an inspiration to his co-workers, who wish to testify, in these reminiscences of events with which he has been associated, to his unobtrusive influence in the steps by which the Providence Journal and the Evening Bulletin have advanced in growth and power.





## Principal Dates in the Journal's History.

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- Jan. 3, 1820. First issue of "Manufacturers' and Farmers' Journal and Providence and Pawtucket Advertiser," published semi-weekly by John Miller and John Hutchens. William E. Richmond, editor.
- Jan. 1, 1823.—Mr. Miller bought the interest of Mr. Hutchens and became sole proprietor of the Journal.
- Aug. 5, 1823.—The Journal moved to the Union Building on the West side of the bridge.
- Nov. 29, 1824.—The publication-office was again moved, this time to the Granite Building, facing Market square.
- Mar. 30, 1827.—The office in the Granite Building was partly destroyed by fire.
- July 21, 1829.—First issue of the daily Journal.
- May 1, 1833.—Mr. Miller admitted George Paine to partnership, and the paper moved to the Whipple Building on College street.
- Feb. 23, 1836.—George W. Jackson bought the Journal. An Adams press was provided.
- July 1, 1838.—Mr. Jackson sold the Journal to Joseph Knowles and William L. Burroughs.
- Feb. 1, 1839.—Mr. Burroughs retired and was succeeded by John W. Vose; thus the Journal publishers were Knowles & Vose.
- July 1, 1840.—Henry B. Anthony was admitted to the firm, which became Knowles, Vose & Anthony.
- Nov. 13, 1844.—The Journal moved to the Washington Building, Washington Row.
- July 11, 1845.—A silver service was presented to Mr. Anthony by Providence citizens in appreciation of the course taken by the paper during the Dorr War.

- April 23, 1848.—Mr. Vose retired and the firm became Knowles & Anthony.
- May 1, 1848.—The words "and Pawtucket Advertiser" were dropped from the heading of the semi-weekly.
- May, 1854.—Henry R. Davis became a Journal carrier.
- June 30, 1856.—The Journal was first printed by steam power on a Hoe single-cylinder press.
- Sept. 10, 1860.—James B. Angell assumed editorial supervision of the paper.
- Oct., 1862.—The press capacity was doubled.
- Jan. 1, 1863.—George W. Danielson was admitted to partnership; then the firm became Knowles, Anthony & Danielson.
- Jan. 26, 1863.—Evening Bulletin started.
- Jan. 3, 1870.—Fiftieth anniversary observed by publishing a history of the Journal, prepared by Rev. E. M. Stone.
- July 1, 1871.—Office moved from the Washington Building to the Barton Block, 2 Weybosset street, and a four-cylinder press installed, capable of 10,000 impressions an hour.
- Dec. 21, 1874.—Joseph Knowles died.
- Nov. 1, 1875.—Alfred Williams joined the Journal reportorial staff.
- July, 1875.—A six-cylinder type-revolving press installed, capable of printing 12,000 impressions an hour.
- Feb., 1881.—Hoe web perfecting press installed for Bulletin, with stereotyping apparatus for both Journal and Bulletin.
- July 1, 1881.—Form of Journal changed from folio to quarto, with an increase in size from four pages and forty columns to eight pages and sixty-four columns.
- April, 1882.—A second web perfecting press bought.
- Jan. 1, 1883.—Alfred M. Williams became associate editor.
- Mar. 25, 1884.—Mr. Danielson died.
- May, 1884.—Incorporated as the Providence Printing Company.
- Sept. 2, 1884.—Mr. Anthony died.
- April, 1885.—Act amended, changing name to Providence Journal Company.
- May 27, 1885.—The Journal Company elected officers under its new charter, choosing Richard S. Howland treasurer and manager, and Henry R. Davis secretary and cashier.
- July 19, 1885.—First Sunday edition of the Journal issued.



June 24, 1886.—Historical number issued on the 250th anniversary of the founding of Providence.

Jan., 1887.—First number of the Providence Journal Almanac.

April 18, 1887.—New Hoe press put in.

May 3, 1888.—Journal "read out of the Republican party."

July 11, 1888.—Purchase of the Fletcher Building as a new home for the paper.

May 6, 1889.—Moved to Fletcher Building, where the paper used the first linotypes in New England.

Sept. 29, 1890.—Slater centennial of the introduction of cotton machinery observed by an anniversary number.

July 23, 1891.—Mr. Williams resigned.

Mar. 19, 1892.—New press put in.

April 9, 1896.—Mr. Williams died.

Oct. 8, 1897.—Weekly edition of the Rhode Island Country Journal discontinued.

Mar. 31, 1898.—New press put in.

Nov. 10, 1898.—Frederick Roy Martin became associate editor.

April 21, 1902.—Photo-engraving plant established.

Sept. 16, 1902.—Estate adjoining Journal property on the east procured as an addition to the site for a new building.

April 1, 1903.—Wireless station established at Point Judith.

April 13, 1903.—Foundation started for new Journal building.

May 5, 1903.—Wireless station established on Block Island.

July 9, 1903.—First number of "Block Island Wireless" issued.



## CHAPTER I.

HENRY RICHARD DAVIS.

For fifty years he has been identified with the Providence Journal's life, rendering efficient service in the management of the counting room, but also finding opportunity for mental stimulus as well as recreation in its other departments and through the companionship of its editors, contributors, and patrons.





## HENRY RICHARD DAVIS.

Half a century ago, Henry R. Davis, secretary of the Journal corporation and manager of the business office, entered the employ of the company as a newsboy, and with scarcely an interruption he has been identified with the Journal ever since. This record is unusual, not only because of its length, but on account of the activity which made his personality so prominent. Many people have been unconsciously led to regard him as the most accessible representative of the Journal and the Bulletin, applying first to him, whether their dealings were with the financial, mechanical, or editorial departments.

Long terms of service are the rule rather than the exception in an office where they are encouraged by incentives to stimulate the best efforts of each individual. Several members of the Journal staff have completed terms of service varying from twenty to thirty-five years; but a connection of fifty years with a company must necessarily be rare when one considers how small its staff was fifty years ago compared with its force in more recent times.

In the accompanying pages an attempt has been made to relate incidents in the history of the Journal as Mr. Davis has seen them, and to recall names of men with whom he has been most associated. Thus this tribute is not a systematic or consecutive history of the Journal, for it deals more with individuals and traits of character than with political or moral reforms inaugurated and

supported by the paper. While the paper was a political organ, controlled for the Republican party by Senator Anthony, during the administration of Mr. Danielson, when the rule of the newspaper manager in public affairs was still more absolute and after the Journal and the Bulletin shook themselves free and no longer represented the opinions of a clique, Mr. Davis performed the same part in their direction.

Whatever hand took the helm in the management of the paper it has found immediate response in the individuality and character of Mr. Davis, with whom confidential relations could be established without hesitation. His cheerful temperament has been conspicuous since his first connection with the office. This pleasant disposition early manifested itself, and has no doubt been responsible in a great measure for the even balance of his character and for the sanguine temperament which has found such diversity of enjoyment in duties that others might have found mere drudgery. But his disposition is not mere good nature that would tolerate slipshod methods or indulgence that invites imposition, for his firmness and precision are a constant rebuke to indifferent or slovenly workers. When one watches him move from one subject to another and observes the celerity and accuracy with which he deals with each little detail, he can account in a measure for the successful dispatch of business which Mr. Davis allows to be extended so much beyond the routine limitations of the ordinary counting room.

It is said that newspaper life is made up each day of climaxes which all culminate in one supreme effort to complete the work as the edition goes to press; but each di-



verting influence is met by Mr. Davis with such a calm demeanor and rapid power of concentration that confusion is avoided and exigencies which might confound others are quickly cleared. Alertness, serenity of temper, and clearness of brain render accumulated burdens less formidable to Mr. Davis than to many executive officers who pride themselves on method. To those who know the proverbial distrust that in many offices separates so distinctly the editorial room from the business office the cordial relations existing between the two in the Journal are generally a surprise. This absence of friction in part results from the fact that Mr. Davis retains the habits of years when the publisher was his own editor and continues his interest in news and its collection. It is not often that a reporter consults with the business office to learn the background essential to some story or the lines that will lead to new discoveries; but some of the best stories in the Journal office have been suggested or rounded out by a consultation with Mr. Davis's index book, in which he has recorded references to the files for over forty years, making it possible to turn at once to the accounts of most important events.

Mr. Davis began this system of cataloguing, not merely to help the Journal staff, but also to make available information which the editor is called on almost daily to supply. The newspaper is considered a centre of information, and people expect the "editor" to answer at once some obscure question about which a dispute has been raised or to give the dates of historical events which he is supposed to have at his tongue's end. Since it is impossible for the most retentive memory to treasure all

such facts, the reference book was started and has grown to such importance that it is about to be extended and made more comprehensive. In spite of the repeated demands on his time made by seekers after information contained in the index, Mr. Davis finds opportunity to give personal attention to all those who come on an honest errand and at the same time keep up the routine work of the office which he directs.

In the many philanthropic enterprises which the Journal has conducted Mr. Davis has usually been the active agent or treasurer, so that there has been hardly a public movement for relief since he presided in the counting room with which he has not been identified. Many will intrust money unhesitatingly to a newspaper appealing for it; but in the case of the Journal such subscriptions have been especially successful because of confidence in the man who has handled so many such funds. Thus many people who wish to give a little to the poor at Thanksgiving or Christmas quietly leave the money in the office, knowing that it will be wisely distributed.

In the three relations, therefore, of fidelity to his employers, interest in his associates, and regard for the public he has exhibited a loyalty to the Journal and properly served the interests of all without sacrificing his concern for the welfare of the paper. He has been able to adjust himself quickly to new methods and to carry them out with an enthusiasm that made them seem a part of his own plans. This avoidance of friction when accepting new conditions has made his work especially valuable, for he never allowed long custom to drag his office into a rut which could not be left without a jolt.

Showing cheerful co-operation in undertaking the plans of the managers he has continued to be the personality which preserved the good will of the contributors. Whatever their relations with the editors upstairs, Mr. Davis was always interested in what they wrote and greeted them personally as they visited the office to leave their manuscripts or came to receive their compensation for articles that had been published. The constituency of the Journal has been peculiar in the number of persons who call personally at the office to pay their annual subscriptions. If one of these long-time subscribers should fail to meet Mr. Davis and to receive a receipt from him he would be sure to go away with the feeling that an important feature of his periodical visit was lacking. In the purchase of supplies it is a part of his work to meet dealers, who have generally found that his knowledge concerning prices of articles in the mechanical equipment of a newspaper was accurate and his judgment excellent concerning their availability.

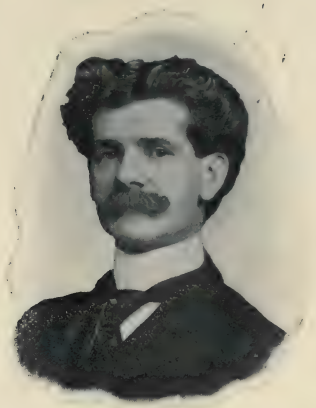
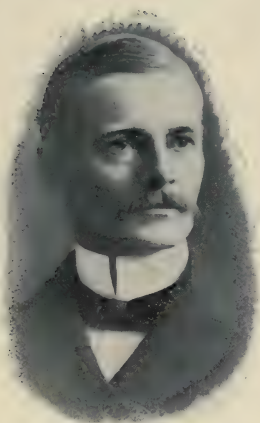
It was the spirit of self-reliance that influenced Mr. Davis to seek employment as carrier for the Journal in 1854, for he was largely dependent on his own resources. His father, Joseph Snow Davis, died two months after the birth of Henry Richard, March 21, 1839. Although he had an opportunity to attend the public schools, he did not take more than two years of the high school course. Since that time his education has been obtained in the Journal office, where he has taken advantage of its literary life and of the contact with its countless contributors to acquire mental discipline and the broadening of his general information. In 1852 he began work for newsdealer



O'Gorman and carried papers to subscribers of the New York Times and Boston Journal. He secured a regular route as carrier on the Journal in May, 1854, and in March, 1856, he became a telegraph messenger boy in the Morse Company's office on Canal street, but his connection with the paper was not entirely interrupted. In September, 1856, Mr. Anthony, recognizing his punctuality and attention to business, invited him to take a place in the Journal counting room.

One of the duties in this position was the collection of bills, and an incident recently related by a lawyer illustrates the courteous manner which has contributed so much to his success. The lawyer had been much vexed by interruptions while he was trying to clear up his desk in time to keep an appointment. Finally he was able to break away from the office a little late and was hurrying out, when he met young Davis at the foot of the stairs. The lawyer knew that it was probably a bill the boy had brought, and started to brush him aside with the remark that he could not make the change just then. "All right," said young Davis, pleasantly, "I can just as well call again." The attorney was so impressed by his politeness that he turned and, calling him back, said: "No, you won't call again. Go right up stairs with me now and I will find you the money."

During the wave of patriotic feeling that followed the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Davis joined the Burnside Zouaves, with whom he drilled, expecting to enlist in a Rhode Island regiment; but he was dissuaded from this plan by Mr. Anthony, who assured him of the permanency of his position for which he seemed so well fitted.



LONG-TIME ASSOCIATES OF MR. DAVIS IN THE COUNTING ROOM  
OF THE JOURNAL.

JAMES B. GAY.





Mr. Davis's early work was so satisfactory that he soon found himself promoted to take the place of Charles J. Wheeler at the head of the counting-room force. J. Bowers Slade was soon installed as assistant to Mr. Davis, while Louis W. Clarke was put in charge of the carriers. William M. Cotton, who is still employed in the counting room, took his place in 1868, before the removal from the Washington Row building, but the others who still remain with the Journal's clerical staff joined the force when the Barton block was the publication office,—Timothy F. Dwyer, who now has charge of the advertising, joining in 1872, Charles H. Mathewson in the fall of 1879, and Charles M. Staniels in 1884.

With the increase in the volume of business it was never allowed to grow away from Mr. Davis, and he gradually became immersed in it so that his special studies, his diversions, and the time that many would give to recreation were devoted to the life of the newspaper with its manifold interests. The individual friendships with members of the Journal family, the historical and scientific discussions it conducted, and the wealth of its literary productions afforded variety enough for the most active mind, capable of appreciating and making the most of each element. Thus he lives the life outside his domestic circle in the Journal and enjoys its possibilities in full measure. His admission in May, 1887, to Orpheus Lodge, No. 36, of Masons, is a possible exception. This lodge was formed by the members of the old Orpheus club of singers, and Mr. Davis is still an active member of the organization.

Mr. Davis has always taken an interest in historical

matters, but it is significant that his principal activity therein has been in connection with some Journal contributor. Thus he accompanied Rev. Edwin M. Stone in studies on the old camp of the French allies whose tent marks were visible a few years ago on the high ground between the Pawtucket road and Swan Point Cemetery. Rev. Frederic Denison, also a contributor to the paper, was interested in providing a memorial to the French who died in this State during the Revolution, and a few weeks after the question had been discussed by them a subscription was started in the Journal columns. Mr. Davis was naturally the treasurer, and as a result of his work a monument was built in the North Burial Ground; and when the cornerstone was laid, in the fall of 1882, the French delegation attending the Yorktown centennial came up and participated in the exercises, decorating the monument with flowers.

Mr. Davis was married June 14, 1865, to Mary E. Wilson of this city, who died in 1882. They had three children, Mary E., who lives at home; Henry F., who is married and is employed in the Journal office; and Emma Louise, wife of Walter Hayward of the Journal staff. Mr. Davis moved from his Chestnut street home to 98 Congdon street in 1895, and has lived there since.

Such in brief is the record of events in Mr. Davis's life which have not such direct connection with the Journal as those recorded in the following pages. The remaining events are found in the history of the Journal for fifty years, for he has been a participant in them all. Little attention is given in this volume to the political history of the Journal, for in this Mr. Davis has not been active.

But there is scarcely another element in the Journal office with which he is not identified. He selected the carriers and has followed them with friendly interest. He was not satisfied to sign the remittances to contributors, for he met them personally and appreciated their work. He has been interested in the Journal's mechanical advancement, and he has participated in its preparation of news for publication. His cheerful greeting has met the employees on pay day, and to him the subscriber has looked for the proper delivery of the paper. Thus this little book may be considered a Davis biography, as the record of every event has been associated with him personally.





## CHAPTER II.

### POWER OF THE PARTY ORGAN.

The Journal's growth in Influence during the administration of Senator Anthony and George W. Danielson.—Mr. Anthony's public service.—Mr. Danielson's Policy of Expansion.—Death of the Two Leaders.—The Journal emerges from party allegiance.—Pathetic Incident connected with the death of Mr. Williams.



## POWER OF THE PARTY ORGAN.

The importance of mechanical improvements in the publication of a modern newspaper and the disappearance of the political organ have created the impression that the daily is no longer a personality, but a costly machine which digests the world's news and spreads it before the public each day, with little idea of influencing opinion. Moreover, a too generally accepted idea is that the newspaper has no longer a mission for party or individual, but merely reflects the life of the period. This theory would not explain the affection with which readers cling to one paper, when they have made its acquaintance, and the welcome they afterward give it as to an old friend and companion. It is a question, also, whether the editorial influence of journalism has actually declined, for the news department has been so developed that the proportion between the two has greatly changed. The reporter does his share to-day in moulding opinion, and the views of the editor have not lost their influence. Brains rather than financial resources are still the chief elements of a newspaper's success, in spite of the expensiveness of its publication compared with what it was when presses were primitive and inexpensive; for nearly all the important journals in America are inspired by some personality, while attempts to create newspapers on the idea that they need only money for the purchase of talent have repeatedly failed.

A correspondent of national reputation recently told the public, on the anniversary of a daily newspaper, that he had seen the great editors pass away, and that the modern writer was simply the hired man of a syndicate rich enough to provide presses, linotype machines, art departments, and a material home for the journal. While it is true that the invention of a machine that has supplanted hand work in composition and the development of fast presses to make possible the printing and distribution of news rapidly enough to keep up with modern requirements have made the material advance more conspicuous than it was when the literary man could establish an office with \$5,000, this material perfection of newspaper plants has by no means obliterated the influence and place of the newspaper man.

No better illustration of this idea can be found in America than in the history of the Providence Journal, whose business and editorial departments have always continued to be controlled by the same persons and whose resources have been created by its publication and not contributed from outside income. The development of the telegraph, the discovery of the telephone, and the perfection of a mechanical substitute for typesetting have all come within fifty years, but they have not forced the Journal editor to a position of inferiority to the business manager; for in that entire period there has been a publisher at the head who was the active director of the news department and was responsible for the opinions as well as the financial management. In the beginning of that period came Senator Anthony, who never relinquished entirely his editorial care or responsibility so



long as he was owner; and when he laid some of the burden on George W. Danielson the healthy growth of the Journal only kept pace with the editorial broadening and strengthening which that leader could bring. On the death of these two men, who combined the work of editorial supervision with the financial problems involved, the Journal passed into the hands of the present controlling owner, who is the editor as well as the manager of the business.

In the beginning of the 19th century the editor of a paper was the one person responsible for its literary and mechanical work. He gathered what little local news was considered worthy of record, wrote comments, clipped the miscellany that occupied so much space in the columns, and sometimes set the type. When the date of publication arrived he prepared the white paper sheets to receive impressions from the type, fed them to the press, and often distributed the edition to subscribers. Events seemed to gain value by the distance that removed them from the local audience; for the sewing circle and the corner grocery were abundantly able to disseminate local matter and discuss it, while the news from Europe had to encounter the vicissitudes of ocean travel and seemed to increase in importance by this inaccessibility. Another class of news rated as important was the official proceedings of Congress, a body which had then only recently expressed the will of the states in the concerted revolt from the mother country; so when the Declaration of Independence was fresh in mind Congressional debates were rarely pruned or sacrificed to make room for livelier matters. As the magazines had not become so common

then and books were rare and expensive, it was one of the duties of the newspaper to print choice miscellany of all sorts. In the preparation of his material the "editor" was then known as the man who "wrote the paper" and his functions also included those of printer, who not only struck off the edition but also conducted a job office for preparing leaflets and printing pamphlets.

The differentiation of the early newspaper editorship had begun with the new century, and so the job office was generally separated from the editorial rooms, although both were conducted by the same person and the newspaper was made the advertising medium to solicit printing jobs. Departments were springing up, so that one person could occupy his whole time setting the type and another might attend to the make-up of the forms and the feeding of the press. This specialization had been carried a step farther when Mr. Davis first made the acquaintance of the Journal fifty years ago. The editor no longer had to put the forms on the press, and he had separated the business department, opening a counting room for the arrangement of the advertising and to keep the record of subscriptions. There had been a still further division in the Journal office, for the job printing office was conducted separately, although the Journal proprietors still kept it with the assistance of other partners. The firm which published the Journal in 1854 was Knowles & Anthony, and Mr. Knowles, who was an expert printer with training in all branches of that trade, took particular charge of the typographical department. Henry B. Anthony was a literary man, and he still personified the "editor" in that he prepared nearly all the matter for publication. Charles



HENRY B. ANTHONY.





J. Wheeler was the sole representative in the counting room, and had long performed the multifarious duties that have since increased in volume so as to require a large force. The home of the paper was in one of the most conspicuous and imposing, as well as central, of Providence buildings, which has not yet been obscured by the modern sky-seeking structures, for Washington Row has not been relegated to an inconspicuous part in carrying the city's traffic.

It was here that the energetic young man who had won public confidence by his fairness and conciliatory conduct during the controversies that had nearly led to bloodshed now gathered the choice spirits of the day in business, politics, and society; for here, they had learned, was the opportunity for exerting an influence in the policies controlling the State. Not only was the editor an individual of flesh and blood, but his seat of power was a place which attracted the leaders in thought whose ideas seemed to be amalgamated, for each visitor at the "Round Table" might see enough of his own ideas put into practice to forget the ones that had been discarded because the interchange had offered better ones. There were no Sunday papers then, and the suspension of the edition one day in seven gave opportunity for gatherings free from interruption. So Sunday came to be the day for the assemblies in the sanctum, and these soon became known as the Journal "Sunday school." The modern political "boss" had not been developed and the leadership in politics was scarcely intrusted to one man; hence the arrangements made in the Anthony editorial room were more the combined judgment of the men who gathered there. The in-

fluence of the visitors to the office may have imperceptibly decreased and the experience of the host increased until he became better recognized as a leader, but the representative character of the gatherings was not lost in Mr. Anthony's time. After Mr. Anthony had been in the Senate and had come in contact with national leaders in shaping legislation in such grave matters as the conduct of the Civil War he did not lose touch with the men who were wholly concerned with local matters; for there were always home questions that came up for settlement, and small problems must have seemed easier after Washington affairs had demanded Mr. Anthony's attention.

The Journal was the organ of the Republican party, and as the Republicans were dominant the two became associated in the public mind; so the newspaper was known as the mouthpiece of the power that was shaping the destiny of the State and that had a large share in decision on national questions. The two elements that gave the Journal "Sunday school" such power were the mysterious omnipotence generally ascribed to the "editor" and the actual personality of Mr. Anthony, who had the ability to attract men and to use them when they did not realize that they were contributing so much and hence made no protest. Perhaps it was the ability to make concessions on unessentials that made his success as a leader so conspicuous, and for a long time there was no resentment felt because of a domination which was so gentle and apparently unselfish.

From a newspaper standpoint these meetings were especially valuable to the editor in the days when he had no staff of reporters and was dependent on voluntary sug-

gestions and reports of current events. Sometimes the editor followed up the hint personally, and he often paid an official for writing the account of an event. If a criminal case had to be reported the policeman was generally called on, while Brown students were always available for this sort of work. If an obituary was needed there were a score of old residents whose minds were stored with facts ready for just such an emergency, and they gladly responded to a call for facts. If graver questions arose that required discussion, for which the editor did not feel competent, there were always members of the Brown University faculty who were glad to supply their information and to earn the compensation which made a welcome addition to their salaries for teaching.

One of these was Prof. James B. Angell, whose facile pen responded to the requirements of a mind treasuring information and carefully trained. Readiness to write an editorial article did not mean commonplace or superficial work with him, and there was a hopeful quality of optimism that seemed to relieve his work of all suggestion of forced effort in production. Physically vigorous, he had a virile intellect that appeared to adjust itself so readily to the subject in hand, and to turn to another when it was finished, that he hardly received credit for the three years of toil when he conducted his college classes in addition to the work of filling the editorial page. This responsibility was not lessened when he gave up his college work to devote his entire time to the management of the newspaper, for the war brought with it perplexing problems in which local interests and Rhode Island's part in the struggle were involved. The record of those stren-



uous days in the Journal office is modestly told by Mr. Angell himself in another chapter. Much of the information and experience that have since proved valuable to him in diplomatic positions and in his administrative work as President of the University of Michigan was no doubt acquired during those days of editorial responsibility, when he had to discuss such a wide range of subjects. The influence he wielded may have passed with the period in which it served its purpose, but the personality of Mr. Angell impressed all who came in contact with him, so that even the newsboys of 1860 still remember his cheerful smile and the kindly word in passing that fell so naturally and readily from his lips.

Mr. Anthony was a Brown graduate in the class of 1833, who had literary taste which turned him from the manufacturing industries in which his family were engaged, so that he was ready to accept the offer which came from his friend, Mr. G. W. Jackson, to take the editorial place in which he quickly intrenched himself. He was only twenty-five years old when the management of the paper was put on his shoulders in 1838. Almost immediately after his taking the position came the culmination of the strife over the constitutional limitations to the suffrage of the State, and this included questions of the greatest moment which interested the nation and involved the future of Rhode Island. The test was a severe one, but Mr. Anthony rose to the issue with surprising skill and discretion which assured his reputation. The first contention which he maintained with positiveness was that law and order must be preserved, and while he did not yield to the radical views of the extremists



whose action made the reform possible, his associations with the conservatives never compelled him to take a reactionary course.

The prestige gained by his course in the Dorr War no doubt contributed to the movement that resulted in his election as Governor, although he had never before served the State in an official capacity. He was thirty-four years old when he entered the office of Governor, and here he extended the political acquaintance he had made and included among his friends many who had been opposed to him politically. When urged to take a renomination he declined, for he wished then to give the paper his undivided attention, as he often remarked that he had rather be editor of the Journal than hold any other position in the world.

In the meantime Mr. Anthony suffered a bereavement in the death of his wife, whose place in the home was never afterward filled, so that his hospitality was that of a single and childless man. He had been married to Miss Sarah A. Rhodes of Pawtuxet in 1837, and had lived in that village much of the time until her death in 1854. A trip to Europe was planned as a relief when the pressure of duties seemed heavy with the added weight of personal grief, and in 1855 he traveled over the continent, writing breezy letters to the paper from France, Italy, and Germany. His friends at home were assured that he had not forgotten Rhode Island's attractive features by association with historic scenes abroad, for he was continually comparing a famous building with a Providence block, a river with the stream he crossed on the way from Pawtuxet, or a waterfall with one he passed on his daily trip

to this city. On his return he found that the manufacturing business conducted at Coventry by his family was financially embarrassed; so he unhesitatingly assumed obligations not binding on him—an act that greatly increased his popularity.

It was during his absence in Europe that James S. Ham, who had been one of the frequent contributors to the paper, was asked to take the editorial management for a year, a position which he was glad to relinquish at the end of that time, for he shrank from the obligations that so often fall to the lot of an editor, compelling him to investigate hurriedly a matter which he knows nothing about and comment on it hastily. Mr. Ham was older than Mr. Anthony, for he was born March 8, 1809, but in his editorial work he had avoided responsibility and had consequently allowed opportunities to pass for which his friends thought him to be well fitted. When Mr. Knowles had owned the Microcosm Mr. Ham had conducted it for a year, and he took charge of the Journal a second time before the arrival of Mr. Angell in 1860. This sense of responsibility was evident afterward in the management of one of the many estates intrusted to him, for he insisted on taking the blame for loss from a robbery, although the beneficiaries entirely exonerated him.

Although Mr. Anthony returned from his trip with new vigor and the expectation that he might now continue his work without interruption, he had hardly settled down in the harness before political conditions so adjusted themselves that he felt compelled to accept the candidacy for the United States Senate. The election took place

May 28, 1858, and the following year he took his seat in the chamber where already the threats of secession leaders were heard. But the man who had shown his readiness to meet the crisis when he took the editorship of the Journal at twenty-five and had to help stem the tide that threatened revolution did not quail before problems that threatened disruption to the nation. Conspicuous figures loomed up in this branch of Congress like giants in the estimation of a people harassed by rumors of secession, who watched with dismay the capitulation of those they had trusted. But Mr. Anthony soon became prominent in the deliberations of the Senate and an ardent supporter of the administration in its efforts to preserve the Union. His Quaker ancestry with its peace-teachings did not warp his judgment when it came to active conduct of the great war, and he enthusiastically led in every movement that Rhode Island inaugurated for its prosecution.

The interest that Rhode Island had taken in building up the navy of revolutionary times and the temporary transfer of the Annapolis school to Newport made the selection of Mr. Anthony as a member of the committee on naval affairs a natural one, and he held the position for twenty years. His reputation as a publisher led to his selection as chairman of the committee on printing, a position he used at once for introducing what he considered a great reform in the establishment of a government printing office, which abolished the old system of work on contract by private concerns. He not only desired to end abuses which had grown up in the letting of these contracts, but he also believed that the government ought to do the best work obtainable anywhere.



In March, 1869, he was elected President *pro tem* of the Senate, an office to which he was again called in 1871. The presidency was again offered to him in 1884, but he felt obliged to decline it on account of the ill-health that threatened his life.

Loyalty to his constituents and pride in his native State actuated his work in Congress, for he believed that the standard by which Rhode Island should be measured was "the value of its heads, rather than the number of its feet." The assertion that Rhode Island first realized in a civil government the idea of religious liberty was set forth by him in a speech made in 1861. Repeatedly the charge was flung in his face that Rhode Island was restricting its own suffrage and at the same time demanding that the negro should have the privilege of voting, but he was ready with a reply in which he urged that a republican government might be representative and still not strictly democratic. Perhaps the most elaborate argument he made on this question was in 1881, when he uttered the memorable phrase that these strangers who were demanding greater suffrage liberty were men who "came among us uninvited and upon whose departure there is no restraint." Though he was naturally credited with originating this expression, he was careful to give the credit for it to Benjamin Hazard, from whose lips he had taken it at one of the sessions of the Journal "Sunday school."

But it was in his relations with Senator Sprague, who was his colleague from 1863 to 1875, that Mr. Anthony's loyalty to the State was most conspicuous, for senatorial courtesy was often strained by the attacks of Mr. Sprague,



which even touched upon the conduct of the Journal. In the spring of 1869, when discussion of the national currency was precipitated by the introduction of a bill "to strengthen public credit and relating to contracts for the payment of coin," Mr. Sprague surprised his constituents and the other members of the Senate by making radical propositions concerning government financing. Rates of interest were then high, and money was scarce at any price; so Mr. Sprague advocated a national bureau to loan money on credit, to enable the small manufacturer to compete with his wealthy rival. While these addresses made a sensation in the country, they were pleasing to many victims of prevailing conditions, who hoped to find some relief. The Journal treated Mr. Sprague's suggestions as if they were not to be taken seriously, for it remarked: "The Senator's intense application to his official duties and to his extensive private interests, we fear, cause him to take too gloomy a view of the situation." This paragraph was construed by Mr. Sprague as an attempt to injure his credit and he was sure that it had been inspired by the firm of Brown & Ives, the other large manufacturing house in the State, so as to accomplish his ruin. Mr. Sprague became still more radical after this and represented the country on the brink of ruin financially, while he believed that the standards of morality had been reduced to a low level. Conditions in Rhode Island were attacked, Gen. Burnside was represented as incompetent and the 1st Rhode Island Regiment as cowardly, while the rival concern of Brown & Ives was declared to be corrupting all by its enormous wealth.

To this Mr. Anthony made immediate reply, and the invective was probably the most severe that he uttered in the Senate, although his most withering condemnation was in the sarcasm which he could employ so effectively. The Sprague house was already tottering and the crash came a few years later, when an enormous fortune was found to be in a chaotic state and was finally dissipated. The Journal refrained from making more comment than was actually needed on a disaster that shook financial circles. The chief reason urged in explanation of Senator Sprague's attack on Gen. Burnside was that the officer had resented what had seemed to him interference with his command when Gov. Sprague at the beginning of the war was impatiently urging action and the invasion of Southern territory, but Gen. Burnside had his revenge in being elected to succeed Senator Sprague in 1875. In all the disasters to the Sprague family Mr. Anthony had prevented the Journal from making severe reflections on their affairs, and when he was attacked for hostility he explained how moderate his course had been, since he often allowed correspondents for out-of-town papers to proclaim unfavorable news first rather than risk any suspicion of unfairness to the Spragues.

Senator Anthony's excellent command of language, taken in connection with his large circle of friends, regardless of party lines, led to his selection as the orator at the funerals of deceased members of the Senate or at ceremonies after their death, and he performed this service for, among others, his friend Gen. Burnside, for Henry Wilson, and for Charles Sumner. Although Mr. Danielson was made the active editor in 1863, Senator Anthony

continued to write for the Journal from Washington, and contributed to the paper still more regularly when he returned to Rhode Island in the intervals between sessions. When he died, September 6, 1884, he had served in the national body over twenty-five years, a longer term than had been accorded to any other member, except Senator Benton. No more notable funeral was ever held in Rhode Island than Senator Anthony's, for in the church were President Arthur, a dozen United States Senators, most of them men of national reputation, judges and other State officials. Formal recognition of Senator Anthony's character and public services was made in Congress, and the Rhode Island Assembly paid him similar respect.

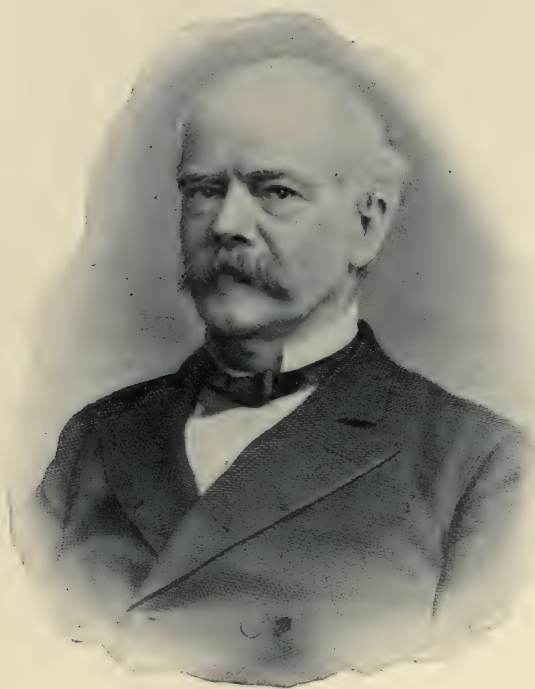
But, after the record of his achievements and public services had been recounted, it was left to Miss S. S. Jacobs, an intimate friend of the family, to picture Mr. Anthony as he was known to his friends. The entertainments to companions at his home on Benevolent street were long remembered by those who enjoyed the impromptu and informal gatherings. From an incident in a servant's experience, when he made as an excuse for a late return one night that "things weren't passed around until nearly midnight," was originated the expression so familiar to Senator Anthony's companions of "passing things around" when refreshments were to be served. He was a restless man, and in later life he often stopped in the course of a meal and walked the floor as he planned out in his mind the comment he was to write. Sometimes he would go to the office absorbed with a subject and without removing overcoat or gloves would write rapidly, his head bending down closer to the paper each moment



until he would suddenly throw it back with a quick movement, and, passing his hand across his forehead, would sweep back the wealth of hair that had tumbled down over his face. His favorite pen was a quill, and his literary compositions were committed to blue foolscap paper. As long as his pet Oscar lived, the dog usually sat at his feet in the office, and his love for such animals was always apparent, for he frequently stopped to caress Sam, the intelligent dog he met at the entrance to the Washington building before he ascended the stairs. Usually a carnation adorned his buttonhole, an affectation that was considered dandified in Washington by those whose acquaintance with him was slight. Among his personal letters there were many chaffing communications where the nonsense was only a veil concealing deep sentiment. Amid his work he found time to add much to the Harris collection of poetry, which he presented to the Brown University library, containing nearly all the editions published of American verse to the time of the Senator's death.

The editor who next made his impress on the Journal, and organized its newsgathering and mechanical departments to meet modern conditions, was George Whitman Danielson, a trained printer, who came to Providence after several publishing ventures and joined the staff of the Providence Post, a Democratic newspaper, with whose proprietors he finally disagreed. He left the Post in 1859, and with Albert R. Cooke established the Evening Press, which was conducted as an independent influence in politics. He left this in the fall of 1862, and for a short time wrote letters from the camps of Union





GEORGE W. DANIELSON.



soldiers at the front. In a few months he was invited to purchase a share in the Journal, and January 1, 1863, he was installed as an editor, with especial charge of the mechanical department. Extra papers were then in demand to give the war news, and the press was sometimes kept busy all day issuing brief bulletins about battles or the movements of the armies. Mr. Danielson's experience with the Evening Press convinced him that the Journal might well venture upon such an enterprise; so he helped start the Evening Bulletin January 26, 1863, and took especial charge of it from the first.

Mr. Danielson was preeminently an executive manager and organizer, but he later trained himself in writing until he could express himself in terse and vigorous English. Short paragraphs were his specialty, and were also the despair of those who attempted to keep up the column in his absence. It had been generally known that Mr. Danielson was an indefatigable worker, but the tireless energy which he expended in editorial work was more apparent after he took charge of the Bulletin and the Journal, for he was usually on duty from 10 o'clock in the morning until the evening edition went to press about 4 o'clock. He would then return about 8 o'clock in the evening and keep at his desk until long after midnight. His training in the composing room and experience in handling forms made it difficult for him to intrust to others the make-up of the editorial page; so he usually donned an old alpaca coat and took the foreman's place when it was time to arrange in the page the articles he had been writing.

Whether news editing, exchange clipping, or proof-reading, Mr. Danielson supervised the whole work, and

it is said that he personally scanned every line before it appeared in the paper. Others have spent long hours at their desks without accomplishing the work that Mr. Danielson could dispatch, but there is no doubt that he undertook more detail than was necessary for his personal supervision and that he injured his health by such close application. But he loved the work, and it was his one ambition to make the Journal a great newspaper; for that object he was ready to sacrifice personal comfort. It is said that he would start on a vacation, but before he arrived at his destination would take a train home and resume his seat at the editorial desk. But, in spite of his busy life, he was perhaps even more democratic than Mr. Anthony; for he was never too busy to see a caller, and he gave no indication to the visitor that his presence was not desirable. Each editor brings his own set of contributors to a paper, and those Mr. Danielson interested in writing for the Journal were especially numerous. He continued this policy of increasing his acquaintance and enriching the paper through the offerings of friends all through his twenty years of service. He soon learned whom he could depend on to write a certain class of article, so that the comments of the Journal on current events were usually prepared by skilled writers familiar with the facts. Mr. Danielson's grip on the paper was strengthened each year, until he might well be considered the sole authority in the absence of Mr. Anthony. In fact he desired this impression to prevail, not from any vanity or arrogance but largely because he best knew each department. Thus when a caller inquired for the city editor he was likely to be referred to Mr. Danielson, although details of muni-



cial matter were well attended to by a subordinate in that position.

When the New England Associated Press sought a president outside of Boston, on account of jealousies that might arise if he were chosen from that city, Mr. Danielson was taken because of this intimate knowledge of every branch of the business of collecting and distributing the news. Good judgment, common sense, and a conciliatory disposition were also recognized in the choice. Mr. Danielson's domestic happiness came late in life, and it was characteristic that he should become interested in a contributor to the paper, whom he married; but even during married life his labors on the Journal were not relaxed. As Senator Anthony had to spend much of his time in Washington, Mr. Danielson became his successor in the editorial room conferences, which had become more political and social, until the policies of the party and the selection of candidates for elections or appointment were usually made there. The editor became more distinctly a leader, and if credit were given to Senator Anthony for an appointment it was usually the result of conferences with Mr. Danielson, who was Mr. Anthony's representative at home. The modern party "boss" may not seek office himself but he is usually interested in schemes which hinge on the political moves he makes. Mr. Danielson did not profit by his participation in politics; all the work was done for the love of it and the satisfaction that came from the exercise of power. The Journal was more strictly Republican under Mr. Danielson than it had ever been, and it not only continued to

voice the sentiments of the party, but also dictated each detail of the party work in the State.

Although Mr. Anthony considered himself likely to die before his partner, Mr. Danielson, and had drawn up an agreement providing for the disposition of the paper, it was Mr. Danielson who was stricken first, and his life passed out in March, 1884, six months before Mr. Anthony died. It was a tribute to Mr. Danielson's devotion to the paper and his idea of the impersonality of journalism that no editions were suspended on the day of his death. The evidences of mourning at his funeral were notable, for while they did not include expressions from men in public life, as in the case of Senator Anthony, the tributes to Mr. Danielson were just as sincere and the evidences of the part he had taken in local politics were fully as conspicuous as at the funeral of his senior partner. In the kindly estimates made of his character there was one tribute on which all might agree—Mr. Danielson was devoted to the paper and loyal to its friends. Many instances are related to illustrate this characteristic, for when he once found that a man could be depended on he stood by him, even if it involved the risk of offending personal friends outside the newspaper office.

The death of Mr. Danielson, followed in six months by the fatal termination of the illness from which Senator Anthony suffered, removed two conspicuous personalities and seemed to leave the paper bereft of a certain individuality in the minds of many who had known it best through them. In a way the impression made by Mr. Danielson was fully as striking as that which Senator Anthony created, for he mingled more with the mass of

common people, while the Senator was more reserved, both by nature and from the circumstances of his official life. Senator Anthony had been a Whig, and that very name implied aristocracy to some people. On the other hand it was natural and characteristic that Mr. Danielson should prefer to ride home in a lunch-wagon, when he finished his duties at night, a custom he followed for the last six years of his life. And yet the face of this plain man of the people seemed to take on the "blood and iron" lines of a Bismarck to those who had reason to feel the power that was behind that mask.

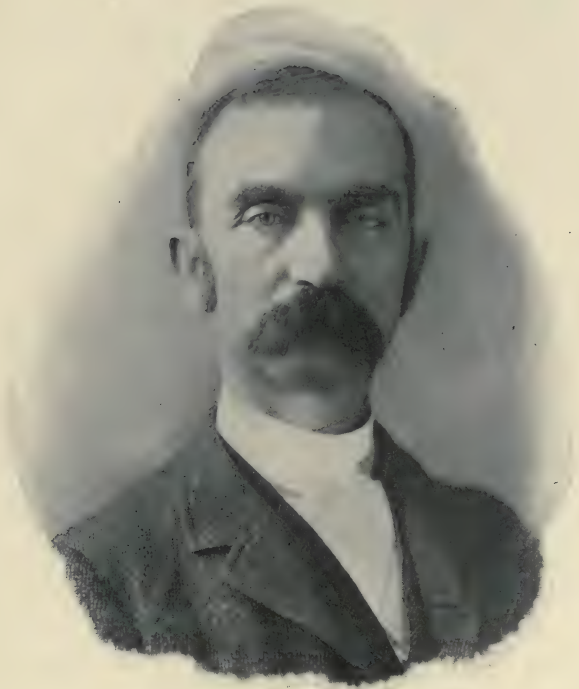
The interregnum that followed the death of Senator Anthony and continued until the organization of the paper by the new owners under a charter really began on the death of Mr. Danielson; for Senator Anthony was in poor health, and his remaining strength was too much absorbed in Washington duties for him to take the management of the paper. Hence Senator Anthony divided the responsibility for the conduct of the newspaper between the three employees he most trusted, and each signed a contract assuming the trust. To Henry R. Davis he gave the financial management; to A. M. Williams, the editorial supervision; and to William J. Danielson, the mechanical department, including the purchase of supplies. Mr. Danielson was the brother of George W. Danielson and had been employed in the counting room nearly twenty-two years. In fact he came to the Journal a few weeks before his brother and had taken an important part in the conduct of the business. He now conducts an advertising agency, and thus continues his newspaper associations.

Alfred M. Williams, who had been the leading editorial writer, took the burden of the management when the Journal was being reorganized as a corporation, and he was afterwards installed as managing editor. It was soon apparent that party prestige was an inherited tradition, for his tastes did not incline toward politics. He was more strictly a literary man, and whatever he did to continue the political management so long conducted by the Journal was undertaken as a duty rather than an absorbing pursuit. But he did not have to serve the party organization long, and lived to see the Journal become an independent newspaper, free from the associations that had so long restricted its influence.

Mr. Williams's coming to the Journal had brought a distinct individuality, unfamiliar to Providence, for although he was a New Englander by birth and breeding, born in Taunton and spending two years in Brown University, he had recently left a region known then as the "West," where he had been editing a newspaper under unfavorable conditions. When he took the paper at Neosho, Mo., it was known as the Investigator, but he had changed its name to the Journal and had advocated Republican principles in that Democratic community. Taking advantage of his proximity to Indians, he had studied their life and had become interested in their language and folk-lore. The newspaper was not a success and his health was broken, so he returned to the East to start anew.

Previous to this western experience Mr. Williams had visited Ireland, for Horace Greeley had been interested by his letters from the front during the Civil War and had





ALFRED M. WILLIAMS.



sent him abroad in 1865 to investigate for the New York Tribune the Fenian question, which was then agitating the country. His arrest as a suspect by the British authorities and his release through the intervention of Charles Francis Adams, the United States Minister, were events that forcibly directed his attention to the condition of the oppressed, and the lessons of that first visit had been so impressed on his mind and heart that they had influenced his work afterwards.

Such was the experience that Mr. Williams brought with him when he visited Providence in 1875 to seek employment. An accident had delayed the train in which he came, so he stopped at the Journal office to write out a story of the wreck. Mr. Danielson was interested in this readiness to serve the paper, and he gave Mr. Williams a place as day reporter, which he was glad to accept although it was much inferior to the one he had recently held. During the Anthony and Danielson management he had acted in a subordinate capacity, but when he became managing editor after their deaths he soon became identified with the movement that resulted in the release of the newspaper from the oligarchy that had long dominated Rhode Island politics.

The Blaine campaign was then in full swing, and the lukewarm position taken by the paper toward the Maine statesman strengthened the impression that politicians could no longer rely on it for organic support of policies or candidates. For the next four years the Journal grew more independent, openly opposing the Republican State ticket in 1887, until it was formally read out of the party

in 1888, a performance which greatly amused Mr. Williams who was a spectator.

During these strenuous days Mr. Williams had been forced to leave his work temporarily to seek relief in 1887, when he was bereaved by the death of his wife, and he again made a voyage to Europe. When in Ireland he took occasion to visit the home of the Banim brothers, whose talented sister had been a contributor to the Journal.

After serving seven years as managing editor of the Journal Mr. Williams again went to Europe in 1891 and never returned to the office, for he resigned July 23, intending to take the opportunity afforded by the freedom from care for the enjoyment of a long rest. His interest in Sam Houston of Texas led to a visit to that state and the preparation of a biography of the noted pioneer, which has preserved for historical use many traditions that otherwise might have been lost. He was engaged in independent literary pursuits for several years, and in 1896 he went to the West Indies, from which he contributed letters to the Journal.

A strange and almost pathetic coincidence was the fact that in the last of these letters Mr. Williams told the story of a tragedy at St. Kitts, in which the circumstances were so similar to those attending his own death and burial that it sounded like a prophecy. He had been enjoying a cruise around the Windward Islands, and on March 4, 1896, he related his experiences on the boat Tyne, which had observed heliograph flashes from a lonesome spot on the coast, known as the rock of Rodonda, where a solitary family lived in isolation.

"It is evidently a heliograph" he declared, writing in



the present tense, "with which the manager is endeavoring to communicate with us for something or other, perhaps it is an urgent appeal for aid." There was no one on board who could decipher the message, so the Tyne sailed on. The doubt and anxiety felt as to the significance of the message led Mr. Williams to relate in his letter the following incident:

"There is a tragedy connected with Rodonda, which saddens the thought in connection with the unheeded appeal. A young English gentleman, the only son of the owner of the mine, visited the island, and cruising about in one of the boats got soaking wet in a tropical shower, the sun brought on fever, and when he landed in St. Kitts he was in a perilous condition. Symptoms of yellow fever manifested themselves, and after lingering a few days he died. Within a few hours he was buried and the news was flashed under the sea to his parents. They could not have the consolation of having his body sent home, as he died of a pestilence, and a photograph of his grave, with the wreaths placed on it by kindly, if stranger, hands, is the only memorial they can have of his last resting place. Let us hope that no such tragedy is now happening on the solitary rock of Rodonda as we steam away in the golden twilight."

The very next day after this was written, Mr. Williams was stricken with mortal illness, and he died March 9. He had to be buried almost immediately on the distant island, while the friends who made vain attempts to move the body had only the satisfaction of a photograph of the lonely grave. The Journal printed the news of his death, and his obituary, March 22, and on the same day

the prophetic letter appeared in another column of the paper.

In personal relations Mr. Williams may have seemed a little brusque in manner, especially to strangers, but one peculiarity in his appearance, produced by his drooping eyelids, which he usually raised with thumb and forefinger when addressing a person, was the result of a malady he contracted in the war, which seemed to settle about his eyes. He walked erect, with military precision, and when he first came to Providence he wore a sombrero well drawn down over his forehead, so it is no wonder the stranger invited a second look from those who first met him. But back of the apparently stern and forbidding exterior friends soon found that he had warm sympathies proceeding from a tender heart. It is doubtful if any other Journal editor was loved more than he by those who won his confidence, and to them he was a delightful companion. He enlarged his literary acquaintance until it included such writers as John Boyle O'Reilly, the poet, and his sympathies for members of the profession found expression through his activity in the Providence Press Club, which he assisted in organizing and of which he was president in its most successful days.

## CHAPTER III.

### THE INDEPENDENT PAPER.

The Organization of the Journal Company in 1885.—  
The Coming into Control of Mr. Howland.—Reading  
the Paper Out of the Republican Party.—Notable  
Growth as an Independent Newspaper.—The Personnel  
of the Present Staff.





## THE INDEPENDENT PAPER.

It was an important date in the history of the Journal when, on May 23, 1885, the Journal Company was formed and Richard S. Howland became the editor and treasurer. At that time William A. Hoppin was elected president, and Henry R. Davis, clerk and cashier. (In 1894 Mr. Davis, continuing in this capacity, was also made a director.) In 1886 Lucian Sharpe was chosen president. He served until his death, October 17, 1899, when Mr. Hoppin again became the president.

Mr. Sharpe's death was marked in a resolution of the directors, wherein the deceased was referred to as "a most valued adviser whom it will be impossible to replace," and it was said of him: "It was always his earnest wish that the machinery and organization of the Journal should be kept at the highest standard attainable. The labor of his life was to obtain the best in all things, and he helped the entire community by his precept and example."

It was under Mr. Howland that the Journal broke away from its Republican moorings. In the salutatory on the editorial page of June 3, 1885, which announced that a new hand had taken the helm, it was stated that the paper would still be Republican, but notice was given of independence which gradually grew intolerable to rock-ribbed partisans.

Richard S. Howland was born in New Bedford, on July 12, 1847, and was graduated at Brown in 1868,

later taking the degree of Master of Arts. He studied a year at Berlin University, having previously spent some months in European travel. Several generations of his family had engaged in the shipping business, both merchant and whaling. In 1871 Mr. Howland visited the Sandwich Islands. Subsequently he was established in California, where he remained until 1885. During his whole life he has been traveling at odd intervals, having visited not only every State in the Union and followed the common paths of European tourists, but also having been in Africa, South America, and many of the West India Islands. If his points of view have been oftener those of the cosmopolite than of the provincial New Englander, the hundreds of thousands of miles that he has traveled throw some light upon the reasons.

There was wailing and gnashing of teeth in some quarters, and many dire predictions of disaster were uttered, when the Journal began to prod Republicans as well as Democrats and to advance the doctrine of freer trade and other political principles previously attacked by the paper. Could there be anything but orthodoxy in "the Rhode Island Bible," as the Journal was often called? At last the truth began to dawn, but somehow the Journal prospered even more than it had when it was a party organ. One has only to look back at the files twenty years ago to realize how remarkable the changes have been, how comprehensive the improvement in news-gathering, and how tremendous the increase in advertising. To be sure the Providence Journal of 1884 was not as antiquated or as poorly printed as the average Paris journal of 1904, but it looks strange indeed beside the larger,

more substantial, more up-to-date Providence Journal of 1904.

During the years of 1885-1887, while George Peabody Wetmore was Governor, the Journal was constantly provoking rabid Republicans to sheer desperation. Under an owner who really would not regard the party as *sans peur et sans reproche*, and with editorial writers, the pithy products of whose pens daily shots chills up and down the spines of Rhode Island Republicans, the paper became the target of critics whose rage was stronger than their sense of humor. On the other hand, the Journal never lost its sense of humor. Read its editorial columns of those years and you find in almost every issue proof that the man behind the editorial gun must have laughed and grown fat as the protesting heathen raged and grew thin.

There was a state of high tension, intensified by four years of Democratic rule at Washington, when the Republican State convention was called for May 3, 1888, to elect delegates to the national convention. Such a paragraph as this, which appeared that morning in an editorial comparison of conditions in Louisiana with those in Rhode Island, did not soothe the perturbed minds of Republicans:

"The contest would have been decided honestly by both parties, except for the fear of corruption by the other. But there is a purchasable and corrupt element in the State, which has existed for many years, sufficient to decide the elections and both parties attempted to gain it. The Republicans had the most money and were successful."

The plan was formed to read the Journal out of the party. Mr. Williams, who was then writing the political leaders, did not fail to appreciate the situation. He engaged a box at the Opera House, where the dire sentence was to be passed, in order to enjoy the ceremony. The event was thus foreshadowed in the Journal:

"It is understood that one of the solemn functions of the Republican convention to-day, after the ratification of the list of delegates already selected, will be the reading of the Journal out of the party with the ceremonies of the major excommunication and quenching the candles upon it. In itself this may be regarded as somewhat of a work of supererogation, but the performance will undoubtedly be of considerable thaumaturgic interest."

Hon. W. A. Pirce was the chairman of the district convention, which was called first, and he made a characteristic speech, in which he attacked the Journal, recounting a list of grievances Republicans had suffered at its hands. When the State convention followed, these resolutions, which had been prepared for the committee by Rathbone Gardner, were adopted with a shout:

"We deem it expedient at this time to put on record the fact that the newspapers published by the Providence Journal Co. have long since ceased to represent the Republican party in this State. They have factiously opposed wise and well considered acts of legislation which were devised in the councils of the party and have been approved by the consent of the people. They have wantonly misrepresented the acts and the motives of honorable gentlemen by whom those laws have been conscientiously and laboriously framed, enacted and ad-



ministered. They have recklessly and without justification or excuse charged upon the party a selfish and corrupt use of the elective franchise and of the legislative vote; they have falsely and maliciously traduced the good name of the State; they have betrayed the party which they professed to support and they have forfeited all claim to public confidence."

The expulsion was no doubt a serious matter for many Republicans, who had regretted the independent tendencies of the newspaper, which they could not understand; but the Journal accepted the situation cheerfully, and the next morning clearly outlined its policy in the following language:

"This is a formidable list of crimes, and the worst of it is that they are all true. They completely disqualify the Journal from being considered an organ of the Republican party. They deprive it of all standing in party conventions, all weight in party counsels, and all official recognition of any name and nature. So much must be admitted and endured by the Journal with such suffering and humiliation as belongs thereto. Nevertheless, despised and cut off from party fellowship as it is, there are certain rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, under the general terms of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,' among which is the privilege which the Journal will claim of supporting Republican candidates when it believes them entitled to the suffrage of honest and intelligent citizens and advocating Republican principles when it believes them calculated to subserve the interests of the country, incidentally telling the truth as it sees it at all times and courting the good will of no party

or individual to whom the truth is offensive or honest criticism objectionable."

The editorial column closed the next morning with the following lines on the Cardinal's curse, taken from the tale of the Jackdaw of Rheims in the Ingoldsby Legends:

"The Cardinal rose with a dignified look.  
He called for his candle, his bell, and his book!  
In holy anger and pious grief  
He solemnly cursed that rascally thief!  
He cursed him at board, he cursed him in bed;  
From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.  
He cursed him in sleeping, that every night  
He should dream of the Devil, and wake in a fright.  
He cursed him in eating, he cursed him in drinking,  
He cursed him in coughing, in sneezing, in winking.  
He cursed him in sitting, in standing, in lying  
He cursed him in walking, in riding, in flying,  
Never was heard such a terrible curse!  
But what gave rise  
To no little surprise,  
Nobody seemed one penny the worse."

From that day to the present there has never been any doubt of the Journal's independence. Somebody described the government of Rhode Island as "an oligarchy tempered by the Providence Journal." When politicians have attempted to make capital they have denounced the paper as the tool of this, that, or the other corporation. "We have to do it," one of them once apologized. "It is expected of us." But it has not worried the Journal, which has pursued the even tenor of its way, fighting against a corporation when the public weal demanded it, as in the memorable train-shed contest between the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad and the

city of Providence; or taking the side of a corporation, as in the uprising of the Pawtucket mob during the street-railroad strike.

In partisanship, too, it has steered an independent course. Although it never endorsed the high tariff views of the Republicans during the McKinley administration, it upheld the party in its attitude subsequent to the war with Spain, and may perhaps claim some of the credit for the fact that anti-imperialism, so flourishing in the neighborhood of Boston, took no root whatever in Rhode Island soil. So, too, with local politics. Since it has lately seemed that the Republicans, representing the industrial progress and conservative interests of the State, have deserved to control the General Assembly instead of the Democrats, who have frequently been led by socialists, single-taxers, and notorious demagogues, Mr. Howland has seen to it that the influence of the paper was cast on the side of more promise. On the other hand, when the municipal government suffered from a lack of independent action, the Journal led in cultivating independence in city elections and has generally been credited with electing Democratic mayors of Providence, who probably could not have hoped to carry the city without the aid of the Journal in preaching the doctrine of non-partisanship in city affairs.

Although he has written much himself and has always been the director of the Journal's policy, Mr. Howland has encouraged self-initiative on the part of his staff, it being his theory of control to give the heads of departments free rein, but to hold them constantly responsible. Until shortly before his death, Mr. Williams was in

charge of the editorial page. Of Mr. Prynne's service record is made elsewhere. Of the present editorial staff, Frederick Roy Martin became associate editor in charge of the editorial department in November, 1898. Fred-eric N. Luther became a member of the staff in 1886, Walter Hayward in 1886, Henry R. Palmer in 1890, Edward Fuller in 1891, Frederick Hoppin Howland in 1893, and M. Morris Howland in 1897. All the present editorial writers have been trained on the Journal staff from the beginning of their newspaper careers except Mr. Martin and Mr. Fuller, who came from service on Boston papers.

Conspicuous for long service is M. S. Dwyer, who began in the counting room in 1875, after carrying papers for about two years, and has gradually been promoted until he has charge of the mechanical departments and assumes general superintendence of publication. J. J. Rosenfeld, the city editor, joined the staff in 1891 and took his present position in 1893.

Mr. Howland's fondness for first-hand investigation of political questions carried him to Venezuela twice, when public attention was centred on the disturbed international relations there, and to Cuba in 1898. In both instances he wrote articles for the Journal. On his return from Cuba, where he studied the awful results of Spanish rule and the widespread human suffering, President McKinley sought his advice as to the best means of affording both immediate and permanent relief. Subsequently Mr. Howland made visits to Algiers, whence he wrote several articles for publication; and when Mexico's depreciated currency was uppermost in the



minds of students of finance he spent several months in the capital of that republic, where he obtained through intercourse with the leading Mexican statesmen an intimate knowledge of the growth and needs of the republic. The result was a series of articles on the social, political, and financial questions that confront the Mexicans.

In short, Mr. Howland, though a New Englander by birth, has always been in a position to look at questions from a less provincial point of view than most New Englanders. For five years he has made his home in Asheville, N. C., which has enabled him to appreciate the political and social problems of the South as the average northerner does not. This, of course, has been reflected in the columns of the Journal with the usual disregard of how the views expressed would affect political parties. Advertisers appreciate the value of the paper because the central purpose of its management is to print the news. Its opinions have not been governed by counting-room influences.

Its course may have seemed to veer. When Republicans have stood for corruption and have needed chastening the Journal has helped to administer it. When Republicans have stood for sound money, for civil service reform, for a courageous grappling with our new problems as a world power, the Journal has done its utmost to help them. Or, to choose a local example: When Brown University has been under the guiding influence of as irresponsible and erratic a personality as ever controlled a New England college, the Journal has given it good advice, however deeply this was resented in certain quarters. But when Brown University turned toward the light and

adopted saner methods under saner leaders, nobody rendered more constant aid in increasing its endowment than did the Journal.

During its years of progress as an independent paper the Journal has avoided "entangling alliances" and has remained free to ridicule sham in all its guises. Of enemies it has doubtless its share—for even Athens, the nearest to perfection in all things that civilization ever attained, was envied by all the other cities of Greece—but it has so many friends that to name them all would be impossible. It has endeavored to cultivate the good-will of reasonable people, and although nobody is always reasonable, most persons are usually so. Upon that truth is based the deep-rooted feelings of mutual confidence and good-will that exist between the Providence Journal and the people of Rhode Island.

#### THE JOURNAL STAFF, MAY 1, 1904.

Richard S. Howland, editor-in-chief.

Frederick Roy Martin, associate editor.

Matthew S. Dwyer, publisher.

Henry R. Palmer, editor, Sunday Journal.

J. J. Rosenfeld, city editor.

Frederic N. Luther, editorial writer.

Edward Fuller, literary editor.

Frederick Hoppin Howland, editorial writer.

Walter Hayward, exchange editor.

John R. Hess, industrial editor.

M. Morris Howland, editorial writer.

Edmund E. Eastman, night news editor.

Charles R. Thurston, day news editor.

Frank E. Jones, night telegraph editor.  
Edmund H. Kirby, day telegraph editor.  
Edward M. Albro, news department.  
David B. Howland, telegraph department.  
George W. Carpenter, Jr., assistant city editor.  
S. Ashley Gibson, assistant city editor.  
Albert C. Rider, secretary to editor.  
Horace G. Belcher, Sunday staff.  
J. Earl Clauson, Sunday staff.  
Frederick W. Jones, Sunday staff.  
William A. Potter, music critic.  
Miss Grace L. Slocum, woman's department.  
Mrs. Emma Shaw Colcleugh, woman's department.  
Miss Elizabeth R. Kendall, literary department.  
Henry M. Barry, reporter.  
Edward A. Batchelor, reporter.  
Vernon J. Briggs, reporter.  
Edward K. Browne, reporter.  
Daniel C. Chace, reporter.  
Marc T. Greene, reporter.  
James H. Hogan, reporter.  
Arthur D. Holland, reporter.  
Wallace E. Jameson, reporter.  
Harry Knowles, reporter.  
Lafayette E. Mowry, reporter.  
James P. McNeilis, reporter.  
Leonard Nichols, reporter.  
William C. Pelkey, reporter.  
Arthur L. Philbrick, reporter.  
William Sandager, reporter.  
Frederick H. Young, reporter.





## CHAPTER IV.

### EDITORS AND OTHER WRITERS.

President James B. Angell, of the University of Michigan.—His Experiences as Editor during the Strenuous Days of the Civil War.—Reminiscences of Senator Anthony.—The unusual equipment of James S. Ham for Editorial Work.—Notable men who once frequented the Editorial Rooms.



## EDITORS AND OTHER WRITERS.

"I am asked to give some recollections of my connection with the Journal and also of the contributions which my friends, the professors in Brown University, have made to its columns.

"I returned from my studies in Europe in August, 1853, and entered upon my duties as professor at Brown in September. From my early boyhood I had been a regular reader of the Journal. During the years 1854, 1855, 1856, I contributed several communications on European affairs, which Governor Anthony, the editor, chose to insert as editorials. In 1857 he made a regular engagement with me, and during that year I wrote about one article a week, and in 1858 I furnished a larger number of articles. In March, 1859, Gov. Anthony took his seat in the Senate. James S. Ham, so long connected with the Journal, was left in editorial charge, while I was depended on to furnish the bulk of the editorial matter. Still discharging my professorial duties, I wrote a large part of the leading articles and paragraphs. Of course I no longer confined myself to foreign themes. The great national issues, which brought us to the war in 1861, were looming on the horizon and invited earnest and continuous discussion. Senator Anthony, in the midst of his duties in Washington, found time to send back articles bearing his characteristic stamp, and contributed even more frequently while at home in the recess of Congress.

"It required some time for him to feel himself as much at home and as contented in the Senate chamber as he had been in his old office chair. A few weeks after he took his seat in the Senate he wrote me that he should be happier if he could change places with me. But of course this state of mind did not last long. Yet it remained true to the day of his death that he was never happier than when he was at his desk and surrounded by his old friends in the Journal office.

"The spirit in which he conducted the Journal while he was personally in charge of it, and in which he always wished it conducted, was that of courtesy towards opponents and of optimism concerning the country. He could be very trenchant in discussion, if necessary, but he disliked an acrid and bitter temper. Hence both he and his newspaper were in most cases respected and esteemed by his most determined political adversaries. He frequently repeated the old saying, 'molasses catches more flies than vinegar.' He was fond of using and employed with great success the weapons of wit, humor, and raillery. It may be doubted whether a more felicitous writer of paragraphs has appeared on the staff of any American newspaper. A half-dozen lines were often so turned by him as to demolish an opponent more completely than a labored and logical 'leader' by a less deft hand. But in his longer articles, written generally with great rapidity and apparent ease, his style was most lucid, graceful, and chaste. His English was a model of simplicity and transparency. It made easy reading. It had a sparkle and brightness which rendered his articles, on however dry a subject, attractive and



interesting. A reader who began one of his 'leaders' was sure to finish it. Three things he insisted on in the conduct of the Journal. First, it should be a clean paper, even in its advertisements. These were subjected to as severe a censorship as communications, no matter what the consequences in the counting room. Second, the English in the paper should be pure. Third, whatever the Journal could do for the honor, the prosperity, the glory of Rhode Island should be done at whatever sacrifice. For us who were left in his absence to carry on the work, it was the tradition and the law to let his spirit prevail, so far as we could attain to it, in all departments of the paper. How far we succeeded, it is for others to judge.

"Perhaps this is the best place to say a word of that remarkable man, James S. Ham, who was responsible editor from the spring of 1859 till August, 1860. As a printer, he had lived long in Washington and in Cambridge and had been a careful observer of public men and student of American history. I have never met a man who more thoroughly understood our political history during the period of his active life, say from 1820 to 1860. I am confident that Senator Anthony would have joined me in acknowledging the great indebtedness of the editorial writers on the Journal for years to Mr. Ham for the stores of political knowledge which he placed at their disposal. He had also a most felicitous gift of preparing careful obituary notices of prominent men. These were the only contributions which he was willing to write, but his judgment concerning the articles which might properly appear, and especially concerning those which

might not properly appear, fully justified the confidence which Senator Anthony felt in his discretion. But for a morbid distrust of his own powers and a depression of spirits verging at times on melancholia, one would say he ought to have held some conspicuous post in life.

“During the year 1860 he became very desirous of laying off the responsible charge of the Journal. It was growing difficult for me to discharge satisfactorily to myself my double duties as teacher and editorial writer. Accordingly at the end of the academic year I resigned my chair in the college and accepted the invitation to take the editorship, subject of course to the control of the Senator. That position I held from the summer of 1860 to the summer of 1866. A more interesting and important period for the responsible post of conducting such a newspaper has not been presented in our history. Few of the newspapers in our country have so won the confidence and so controlled the opinions and actions of their constituency as the Providence Journal under the editorship of Henry B. Anthony. Its opponents used to say that its readers considered it their political bible and opened it in the morning to know what they ought to think. The opportunity, the privilege, the duty of such a journal at such an epoch no one comprehended more thoroughly than Senator Anthony. His inspiration guided it from first to last. By his frequent letters we in the offices were kept in constant touch with him, and through him with the very inmost life of the government. Never was a more indulgent chief. He left us in the offices the utmost liberty compatible with the general policy of the paper. Though with my limited experience I must have made



JAMES B. ANGELL.





mistakes, I do not remember that he ever complained to me or even criticised me, except as criticism may sometimes have been gently implied in suggestions. He won the esteem and the affection of every one in the office. All of us were always more than willing to meet any extraordinary demands made on us in emergencies.

“Those who now enter the spacious offices of the Journal and see its large mechanical outfit and its force of writers, reporters, and clerks will have difficulty in understanding on how modest a scale it was then conducted. Henry R. Davis, who still remains in active and efficient service in the counting room, was then the only accountant. Then as now, by his sweet temper and winning manners, he attracted all who had business at the office. Through all these years he has done his full part in securing the prosperity of the Journal, to which he has been loyal through all its changes of ownership and editorship. In those days he was often called on for service outside of the counting room. He was sometimes sent through April mud to Foster and Scituate to collect election returns, and to Hartford or to Worcester to intercept the night train from New York to Boston via Springfield to bring back a copy of the President’s message on a special locomotive so that we could publish it by morning. I not only wrote as a rule all the editorial articles, but read all the exchanges and made the clippings, and supervised and edited all communications. Not more than a column and a half or two columns of editorial matter was ordinarily expected. We had no regular reporter, except the marine reporter, who was a compositor and set up the news he gathered. When I wished a reporter I sent

out and found one. Two or three college students held themselves subject to my call, when I could find them. Francis H. Shepard, a bill collector, was detailed to report the proceedings of the General Assembly. After the war came on I engaged some young officer in each Rhode Island regiment and each battery, generally one of my college pupils, to correspond, and very well they all did their duty. Not unfrequently after I had gone home at 1 o'clock in the morning, good natured Joe Burroughs, the foreman of the printing room, God bless his memory, came to my house with some important news from the front, and I crept out of bed and in very slender attire wrote an article on the subject for him to take back. There is no one of the surviving staff or of the habitual visitors of the old sanctum who does not have a good word for Joe Burroughs. Never impatient, never fretful under the heaviest pressure on him at the latest hour, he was a favorite with everyone. The Journal was a four-page sheet and was printed on an old-fashioned press that rested on the shaky second-story floor, and the wonder is that so good looking a sheet was regularly printed with so few interruptions.

"During the war the Journal office on Washington Row was the gathering place for all the prominent men in the city and in the State. My table was in the outer room surrounded by these men. I was thus able to feel the public pulse every day. Among those most frequently present I may mention Samuel Ames, Thomas A. Jenckes, Thomas P. Shepard, William Binney, Sylvester G. Shearman, Nathan F. Dixon, Henry Lippitt, Charles Hart, Edward H. Hazard, James T. Rhodes, William

Blodget with his perpetual fun, and Augustus Hoppin dashing off with a blue pencil illustrations of current events or caricatures of noted men. I could write much about them. One could not but catch many good suggestions from the conversation of such men. We used to say, more expressively than elegantly, that 'we milked every cow that came into our yard.' I had the habit of writing while they were conversing, until Judge Ames began to talk. There was something so fascinating and brilliant and witty in his conversation that I used to lay down my pen and tell him that I would wait till he had finished. It will be remembered that Thackeray praised his wit in most complimentary words. Mr. Jenckes had the most extraordinary memory of any man I have known. Especially during the war was he ready in perceiving resemblances between military situations in our battles and those in the battles of Julius Cæsar or in those of the Peninsular War in Spain and Portugal. And on looking up the histories I always found him right.

"Among the friends of Senator Anthony who were certain to call at the office in passing through town were Frank Bird, Schuyler Colfax, and Charles Sumner. I remember calls also from Horace Greeley and Henry J. Raymond.

"Among the correspondents and contributors I recall Mrs. Jane Anthony Eames, a cousin of Senator Anthony, who wrote letters of travel; Rev. E. M. Stone, who furnished religious intelligence and local historical matter; John R. Bartlett, Secretary of State, who gathered literary items; and Henry C. Whitaker, whose charming pictures



of everyday life in town and country reminded one of Charles Lamb.

“Of the faculty of Brown University Professor Goddard and Professor Gammell were before my connection with the Journal the most frequent contributors. Most of the work of the former antedates my recollection, though I am confident that he furnished important articles during the Dorr War. The latter generally chose themes in American history, and especially in Rhode Island history and in educational discussions. For thirty years he furnished the necrological sketches of the alumni of Brown University, published in Commencement week. He also wrote excellent and rather elaborate obituary articles on prominent citizens. His writing was characterized by a clear, dignified, and somewhat stately style, formed on his long study of the writers of Queen Anne’s time.

“Dr. Caswell furnished for many years his meteorological records, which have since been published by the Smithsonian Institution. During the border war in Kansas I think he wrote some spirited communications concerning the conflict.

“During my editorship I occasionally persuaded Professor Diman to write on the career of some distinguished European scholar. I recall particularly his article on Bunsen of Heidelberg, who had much impressed him. Mr. Diman also furnished some excellent reviews of books. Rev. Dr. S. L. Caldwell, who was the secretary of the corporation of Brown University, wrote at my request numerous articles in his fresh and incisive style when at various times I was called out of town. After I left the Journal both Diman and Caldwell wrote on Mr. Daniel-



son's invitation. The former was a constant contributor for years. Their tastes led them often to discuss matters of Rhode Island history, and once to engage in a sharp, though friendly, discussion on Roger Williams. Diman wrote on a great variety of topics, on many phases of European affairs, on Gladstone and Beaconsfield, on various questions of English politics, on the overthrow of Napoleon III and the establishment of the German empire, on public charities, and on education. He furnished the articles which it had long been the custom of the Journal to publish containing suggestions and reflections appropriate to the holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and the college Commencement. His style, even in his rapid writing, was singularly rich and flowing. His articles were distinguished, though not overburdened, by a wealth of scholarly allusions that lifted them above the level of most newspaper writing. Yet they never left on the reader any impression of pedantry. They seemed the natural utterances of a scholarly mind. Characteristic extracts from them may be found in the *Memoirs of Mr. Diman*, written by Miss Caroline Hazard, now President of Wellesley College.

"After Geo. W. Danielson became connected with the Journal, the supervision of the business, of the printing, of the local reporting, and of the Bulletin was assumed by him. I need not say that he was thoroughly master of the whole business of making a newspaper. He and I worked in perfect harmony. We agreed in our ideal of a newspaper. Perhaps the time has come when there is no harm in saying that we conceived the idea of purchasing, if practicable, the Journal and publishing it as

a non-partisan, independent newspaper. But Senator Anthony, naturally enough, was unwilling to sell. Meantime the severity of the work, in which I had been really engaged for eight years, with only a week's vacation in each year, was beginning to affect my health. An urgent call to return to academic life by accepting the presidency of the University of Vermont in August, 1866, led me to part company with the Journal and my pleasant associates on its staff. But I am glad to bear witness that the experience and training in that strenuous life have been of much service to me since, and that the memories of my co-workers from the compositors to the Senator are among the brightest I have cherished.

“JAMES B. ANGELL.”

Mr. Angell lived on Angell street and had to pass the home of his sister, Mrs. J. H. Coggeshall, on his way to the office. He was editor during the exciting days of the war, and when he returned to his home after news of some great battle he would always stop and ring the bell and tell them about it before he went to bed. The Angell family came from Scituate, R. I. His friends attribute his long life of activity to his evenness of temper. He was always sweet tempered, and exercised restraint in eating and drinking. He usually took a long walk in the morning for his daily exercise. A room was fitted up for him over the stairs leading to the Journal office, and there he could write, uninterrupted by conversation, except when Mr. Ames was speaking, and then he laid down his pen to listen.

Soon after James B. Angell began writing for the paper Henry C. Whitaker was encouraged to contribute more

regularly to the Journal, especially after the appearance of Mr. Whitaker's articles, signed "Rusticus," which he dated from "Huckleberry Hollow," writing them during his residence in Clayville, South Scituate. A graduate from Brown in the class of 1838, with such eminent men as Bishop Alexander Burgess of Illinois, Charles S. Bradley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, Marcus Morton, late Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, James M. Clarke, the friend of Senator Anthony, Congressman Thomas A. Jenckes, and President Robinson of Brown University, Mr. Whitaker enjoyed the fellowship of some of the brightest intellects of that generation. He was a relative of Senator Anthony, and his first letters to the paper were written as early as 1849, although it was not until ten years later that he was recognized as the commercial editor of the Journal.

Although his tastes were purely literary and poetry was more to his liking than finance, he made a thorough study of business questions, which had been forced upon his attention when he was credit man for a large dry goods house in New York city. He returned to Rhode Island after the crash of 1857. Thereafter his work came to to be a feature of the paper for twenty years or more. He not only covered the markets, but also prepared sketches of local life and poetry, and the carriers found him very ready to respond to their appeals for verses to be used as New Year's addresses. While these were written without thought of reward, the carriers often expressed their appreciation by some such gift as an atlas or a dictionary.

The work of Thomas Steere as editorial writer on the Journal comes down to a recent date, although he was early welcomed to the company that enjoyed Senator Anthony's hospitality. Mr. Steere was an "old school gentleman;" courtly, rather distinguished in appearance, with abundant white hair, which he allowed to fall loosely over his head, while the twinkle of his keen eyes always impressed a stranger on first meeting him. Mr. Steere was born in 1818 and studied for the bar, but did not long follow that profession. When he was elected a member of the Rhode Island Assembly he was the natural selection as speaker of the House. In 1854 he was appointed United States Consul at Dundee, Scotland, by President Pierce, where he served four years. Soon after his return from the Civil War he became editor of the Post, a Democratic newspaper. He came to the Journal in 1873, and wrote continuously after that until he retired in 1888. His first work for the Journal was the preparation of articles on Rhode Island manufacturing, and he afterward began the articles on "Rural Notes and Notions," which were a feature of his work during his editorial connection with the paper.

For a year during Mr. Williams's administration as managing editor Charles J. Arms was an editorial writer on the Journal. His contribution to the Boston Advertiser on "Our Life at Whistledown" attracted attention to his ability, and he came August 16, 1885. Mr. Arms at one time served as secretary to Governor Hartranft of Pennsylvania.



## MAKERS OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

John W. Barney, its Business Manager, tells about Charles H. Dow, its Founder, and their Connection with the Journal.

John W. Barney, business manager of The Wall Street Journal, was for some time employed on the Providence Journal, where he filled various positions and finally became Mr. Danielson's "right hand man" in the preparation of copy and the revision of matter for the paper. He has written little about himself, but most of the following letter is devoted to Charles H. Dow, also a "graduate" of the Journal, who founded the Wall Street paper:

"My earliest recollection of active work on the Journal dates back to the Washington Row office, in which the two figures which left the strongest impression on my boyish mind were those of Henry R. Davis and Charles J. Wheeler. The first-named every one who knows the Journal knows and esteems; the latter-named has gone to his reward. I was only a carrier in the Washington Row office, and did not begin to entirely support myself by newspaper work until after the establishment was settled in the Barton block. It was not until years had brought discernment and the chief actors had passed forever from sight that I realized I had been permitted to know and to work with representatives, possibly the last of their line, of that school of personal influence in journalism of which the elder Bennett, Greeley, Prentice, Raymond, and Bowles stood as exemplars.

"The Journal of the days of Anthony and Danielson was unique. Standing alone, heedless of possible competition in its rich field, it led the sentiment of the com-

munity. In its famous back room was the seat of Warwick, the king-maker. Its finger was on the pulse of public opinion, and if its hand was not on the helm of legislation, its approval or disapproval of a measure was alike significant and generally potent. In material affairs advertising flowed to it as in a natural channel. It never employed an advertising solicitor and its absolute independence of "business" considerations cannot, probably, be duplicated to-day in any other community of equal size.

"Senator Anthony was to my young mind the ideal man of affairs. Concerned with national issues, he was absent from the office for long periods at a time, and when at home he never worried himself about details. His editorials, I recall, seemed so absolutely logical that I wondered how his political opponents could answer his reasoning. He always wrote with a goose-quill, and I recall my profound satisfaction with myself because I could generally read his manuscript, which was considered to be blind.

"George W. Danielson was one of the most lovable men I ever knew. He was reserved in manner, save to his intimate friends, was a most considerate and appreciative employer, and his judgment regarding matters of public policy was not to be swerved from his conviction as to the absolute right and truth by considerations of expediency. He made the first editorial column famous for its short editorials, ranging from a few lines to a stickful in length. These were always powerful, piercing the joint in the armor, but never malicious nor vindictive. It was my good fortune to enjoy confidential relations

with Mr. Danielson, and we, who knew him best, have not ceased to cherish his memory and regret his death.

“Alfred M. Williams was a rare character. He had the bearing of a recluse, the piercing glance of an Indian, and the impressionist style of a Stevenson. His articles read like a chapter from Balzac. Let a tragedy bring into prominence some evil resort, and Williams’s report would, in a few thumbnail sketches, show the grisly skeleton underneath the roses and raptures of vice as columns from another pen would not serve to reveal it. Simply as character studies he maintained an acquaintance with Romany tribes whose language he knew and with a number of persons, nearer home, of a class not generally met with in polite society. He was equally at home in the records of Boxiana and in Gaelic literature and verse. His first editorial column was also famous, but his paragraphs were the thrust of the inscrutable man in the velvet mask, and his rapier had no button on it.

“A little more than a year ago Charles H. Dow died in New York. His work left its impress on the *Journal*, particularly in the line of careful, painstaking research, in the development of articles of historical value and of more than ephemeral life, and as the precursor of the special articles and the special correspondence which has come to occupy so large a space in the papers of to-day. He came from work with the elder Bowles on the *Springfield Republican*—an excellent school—and the manner of his joining the *Journal* forces was characteristic. He had been working on another local paper with results not very satisfactory. He called on Mr. Danielson, showed him his string of articles for a fortnight, told



him what he had received for it, and asked for a chance to work. Mr. Danielson said he had nothing he could give him to do. Mr. Dow said he didn't need to be given anything to do; that he knew news, and wanted only a chance to go out and get it for the Journal. From that time until he left to go to New York his work was a strong feature of the Journal's columns. He would get together a page article, broken into sections by double heads, of great historical value, and his less important daily contributions were all along most original lines. His history of steam navigation on Long Island Sound was reprinted in pamphlet form by the Stonington Steamship Company. When at the beginning of interest in the discovery of the carbonates at Leadville a number of New England newspapers united in an investigation of the new found deposits, Mr. Dow was selected by the persons identified with the management of the properties as the best equipped to write informingly about them, and on their request to the editor of the Journal he was assigned to this work.

"Association on that trip with men of prominence in the financial world revealed to Mr. Dow a field for his efforts in financial journalism in which he could attain an importance and usefulness not to be hoped for in ordinary newspaper work. His financial reporting in New York inaugurated a new era in such work, that of absolute trustworthiness and straightforward truth. It established also the basis upon which he founded the financial news service which is known by his name all over the English speaking world. This service and the great daily financial newspaper which he established constitute his true monument. In his broader field he enjoyed



the friendship and confidence of the country's greatest financiers, and his analytical studies into prices and values have been recognized by economic writers generally, and as 'Dow's Theory' are assigned due value in their calculations."

#### THE LIBERALITY OF PROVIDENCE

Impressed Carl W. Ernst, who did editorial work in this City.

Carl W. Ernst, son-in-law of ex-Mayor Hart of Boston, who has filled several executive positions in that city, was once a writer on the Journal and was later connected with the Providence Press. From this editorial writing he was called to Boston as a member of the staff on the Advertiser, in December, 1879. He began his newspaper work here in connection with preaching, which he has since abandoned. He writes:

"My first contribution to the Providence Journal appeared in 1870, my last in 1877, I think. One fine morning when things in Europe were squally, Mr. Danielson went out of his way to ask me whether I kept abreast of European affairs. It was a great question, entitled to a great answer, which was duly made. All he meant was could I write him some suitable leaders, and all I meant was that I should be glad to earn wages.

"We got along beautifully. My articles were harmless, he paid promptly, and we were both pleased when the cable bore out my predictions. I enjoyed the utmost freedom, was never asked to take sides, and received good encouragement when asking once or twice that my articles should be judged by the event.

"With great pleasure and affection I remember Mr. Davis, of the Journal counting room, who was as faithful as Mr. Danielson and sincerely kind to all sorts of callers.

"Providence has been called provincial. My experience, both in the Providence Journal and the community at large, does not bear out the charge. On the contrary, I never lived in a city where there was greater freedom of thought, a finer liberality of living, than in Providence."

#### ANOTHER FINANCIAL EDITOR.

Oliver B. Munroe is Connected with Frank P. Bennett's Publications.

Oliver B. Munroe, a graduate of Brown in the class of 1878, was financial editor of the paper for nearly five years and wrote editorials on that subject as well as covering the markets. He familiarized himself with the details in money questions and closely followed the shifting quotations of the markets, until his knowledge of the subject came to be of considerable value to the paper. He is now connected with Frank P. Bennett's financial publications in Boston. Mr. Munroe writes as follows:

"I joined the Journal staff I think about the close of 1884, having previously served on the Providence Evening Press. After doing some general work in the way of reporting, I was given the financial and commercial department to look after, which I handled until, I believe, the year 1889. During that time I wrote editorials, also on financial and business topics, for the Journal. In those times we all worked pretty hard and I took a hand at almost everything, although my special line was the stock

market, merchandise markets, and editorial writing. After I left the Journal I started in Providence The Financial News, a semi-weekly publication, devoted to local and general financial interests, which afterwards became merged into the Daily News. My connection with it ceased in 1890, in the fall of which year I came to Boston, accepting a position of managing editor of the American Wool Reporter, published by Frank P. Bennett. With the exception of two or three intervals, when I have been laid off by reason of sickness, I have been connected with this establishment ever since, and during my term of service here we have started and brought to a very successful status the United States Investor, a weekly financial paper. We also publish a sheep paper and a monthly devoted to the interests of the clothing trade. Of all these publications I am at present the managing editor."

#### CHARLES M. PRYNNE'S MEMORIES.

He Participated in the events connected with the Journal's Transition from  
an Organ to an Independent Newspaper.

This is the greeting sent from St. Louis by Charles M. Prynn, who was once active in the editorial direction of the Journal. He is now well established in business, but his newspaper experience left many pleasant recollections among his associates. He says:

"The memories of eight happy years cluster around my associations with the Providence Journal. Eventful years they were, too, for the Journal. Senator Anthony was gone; George W. Danielson was gone; and new men and to some extent new policies were to the fore. Mr.

Howland had just come into control of the property and was the business manager; the late Alfred M. Williams had been made editor-in-chief; a Sunday Journal was about to be started, to the horror of the staid East side. There was newness everywhere. The gentle face of Henry Davis, the much beloved, beamed then as now across the desk of the counting room manager; the bustling "Mart" Day (who was capable of hiding in a furnace pipe rather than be balked of a piece of news) remained as city editor; but in the editorial rooms the old oak bucket with its cocoanut dipper was about the sole reminder of the elder days.

"In the editorial writers' quarters—tucked away in an almost inaccessible corner behind the paper rolls—there was only one of us who was not new to the paper, and even to the State.

"It is not strange, I suppose, that we sometimes unwittingly touched with irreverence the sacred things of traditional Rhode Island. Nor perhaps is it very strange that when Rhode Island began to awaken to the fact that the Journal had been changed from an organ into a newspaper its first impression was that it did not like it. We were read out of the Republican party before very long—formally, *ex cathedra*, in State convention, with bell, book, and candle—the chief sitting in a box and chuckling to himself as the party orators thundered anathema at him from the stage. If the chief smiled while he listened, the editorial room huzzahed when it heard. Politicians are foolish mortals except when fixing slates and canvassing wards; and if we had previously bought a few of them they could not have served the Journal better,



nor better advertised to the State and the nation that it was above price. What we expected happened. That excommunication was one of the best things that ever befell the Journal. Its circulation increased by leaps and bounds. It was placed solidly upon the rock; and if the politicians who that day hugged themselves in delight over their dear revenge will think it over calmly now, they will see that another good office they did the Journal was practically to kill then and there what they hoped was to become a deadly rival to the paper.

“Probably the politicians see now, after so many years, that, whether right or wrong, the Journal was at any rate honest. And that is the chief and happiest remembrance I have of the paper. It was absolutely fearless, and its integrity was beyond a question. I know what I say. My duties probably brought me closer to the management than was any other person, and in all the years of my service it was never hinted to me, not even by the manipulation of my ‘copy’ that a predetermined course was to be taken upon any subject, irrespective of the facts. Nor did I ever hear that any other writer was hampered. On the contrary we were made to feel over and over again that the Journal’s policy was to serve the nation, and truth and uprightness, without trimming or trickery or thought of self-interest, but in conscientious devotion to public duty. And I recall one memorable occasion (when the paper’s future as a business enterprise seemed to depend upon the decision), the editorial writer detailed to determine a policy was instructed to ‘study the question without bias, thoroughly and honestly, give a reason for his belief, and speak the truth without regard to the paper.’

“No newspaper man needs be told what it meant to a writer to labor under such conditions. Work was a delight. But the Journal was more than honest. It was manly and dignified, and of a literary excellence which if not singular was at least exceptional; while it was enterprising to the point of daring, without a tinge of ‘yellowness.’ The most marked development of journalism in the past score years has been that of the Sunday paper. I like to recall now that the Sunday Journal at the outset in 1885 embraced all that is best and most distinctive in the Sunday newspaper of to-day, and at that time stood absolutely alone. The Journal was a pioneer in newspaper illustration and the first to test many methods. It was the first to cut wholly away from hand typesetting, and newspaper men came from all over the world, even from far away New Zealand, to see its wonderful linotype machines. I remember that we were staggered when this innovation was determined upon by Mr. Howland, and some of us feared ruin was ahead when we saw what sums of money he was willing to spend to get the news. How wise he was was shown when with new and improved presses and an enlarged stereotyping plant we were shortly compelled to move away from Turk’s Head to what was then thought to be a building big enough for all time; but which I am glad to hear the Journal has already outgrown.

“The personal recollections of these years are all of gladness. There never were kinder chiefs or more companionable associates. I never heard an unpleasant word spoken by our superiors: there was never a jarring note to break the perfect harmony of the writers’ room.

Even the counting room (usually a word of scorn to newspaper men) dwelt in cordial peace with the editorial room, without meddlesomeness; and there was not a man in it, from the much loved Henry Davis to Tommy, the office boy, who was not a dear good fellow. I love to think of the Journal men and the Journal days, though they are nearly a dozen years in the past; and if I were a newspaper man again I could wish nothing better for myself than that I might be able to finish out my life in its service."

#### THE PROVIDENCE PRESS CLUB.

Charles H. Howland Recalls Festivities in which Journal men Participated.

The Providence Press Club was founded by Journal men, and its inspiration was Alfred M. Williams. He brought from England the idea of its beef-steak suppers, and it was his wit and ability to enliven a dinner by repartee and the raillery of its guests that preserved the institution's distinctive features. When these were lost, interest waned and the Press Club passed out, leaving a trail of savory memories. Henry R. Davis found no little enjoyment in attending the Press Club dinners, where newspaper workers laid aside their responsibilities and gave themselves up to social enjoyment. Charles H. Howland, who was a member of the Journal staff from 1884 to 1889, was actively identified with the club and he has revived these memories of the institution:

"The club was an outcropping of Journal fellowship. It developed an atmosphere of *camaraderie* between the newspaper worker and the public, professional, and business life of the town that was not the less marked because

it was unconsciously wrought. Originally designed to give the newspaper men in the local field an occasional opportunity to drop shop, suspend journalistic rivalries, and indulge in play together, it early attracted to its hospitable fold men of many diverse activities who came under the spell of its propaganda of good fellowship.

"Alfred M. Williams of the Journal staff was an editorial writer when he suggested the forming of the Press Club. The prompting incident was a supper of newspaper men and public officials complimentary to Manton H. Luther of the Journal on his departure for other fields. Twenty-one newspaper men met and organized on February 2, 1883. Mr. Williams was chosen president of the club, and served until he declined a re-election for a fourth term. He continued, however, to be the inspiring genius of the club's unique functions for many years after.

"Meantime Mr. Williams became editor-in-chief of the Journal. It was a memorable period in the career of the newspaper. In Rhode Island, as elsewhere, the middle 'eighties were a time of newspaper evolution. Politically, a shaking up was in progress in public affairs. Many important partisan newspapers were undertaking the novel policy of independent journalism. Nowhere did the new idea create more of a disturbance than in Rhode Island when the Providence Journal cast loose from the party anchorage.

"Over the pipe and the bowl of the Press Club, the public men and the influential citizenship of the city and State met the newspaper workers of the new era. The contact was mutually edifying. Each found the other of human kind. Competing newspaper men, rival



politicians, the man of business, the lawyer, the clergyman, and the college professor, assembled at the Press Club board, discovered in one another an affinity undreamed of in ordinary intercourse or customary conflict.

"The supper fare was simple and annually the same—beefsteaks, big and thick, with mushrooms, baked potatoes in their steaming jackets, brown ale that had rested quietly in the wood for some weeks preceding, rare old cheeses, churchwarden or corncob pipes and a hallowed mixture of tobacco, perhaps a dash of cognac with the coffee, and a feast of unreason to follow, the relish of which waxed with each succeeding occasion and the fame of which expanded so that, from a handful of grown men at play on the earlier Press Club nights, upwards of two hundred used to gather and make merry on the annual occasion.

"From year to year some very bright men were privileged to make some very bright speeches to the club and its guests. Something of the character of these addresses may be gleaned from the topics given out and the names of the men who undertook to dispose of them. For instance, Hon. Charles E. Gorman once ventured to address the gathering on 'Modesty as a Drawback to Journalism,' and William Goddard on 'Poverty as an Aid to Journalism.' The late Mayor Hayward was heard on 'State Charities as a Refuge for Journalism,' Rev. David H. Greer, on the 'Debt of the Preacher to the Reporter,' Rev. W. F. B. Jackson, on 'Baseball in Journalism.' More frequently the speakers of the evening were called upon without previous notification or assignment of topic;

manuscript was not regarded with favor, the demands upon him who was thus permitted to take the time of the club were usually extreme, and their fulfillment was beset with such obstacles as the imperious audience might, in its mirth, conjure up. A list of those who, at one time or another, participated in the club's stimulating programme would be a directory of most of the men in the public eye during the dozen years or so of these extraordinary gatherings. On occasion, there were special feasts in honor of the stranger in town—as one to Alexander Paul, of the London News, another to the late Julian Ralph, another to Charles Emory Smith, at the time the leading spirit in Philadelphia's famous Clover Club. Lecturers, artists, literary folk, musicians, actors, statesmen, and other persons of contemporary distinction who visited the town were often entertained by the club in its own distinctive way.

“That the position of the newspaper worker in respect to his fellow citizens in the community is much happier, much better understood, and of higher repute than it used to be is in no small measure due to the salutary influence exerted in his behalf by this Press Club. It was set forth in the club's constitution that its principles were ‘Opposition to any form of favor given or received which is not demanded by the legitimate duties of the profession,’ and its motto ‘Independence and Honor.’ Outside the newspaper offices, twenty years ago, those principles and that motto were not so generally recognized as they are to-day.”

## HENRY B. RUSSELL OF SPRINGFIELD.

His Coming to the Journal and Work as an Editorial Writer.

Henry B. Russell of the Springfield Homestead tells of his connection with the Journal as follows:

"I went there in March, 1888, from the New York Sun. The late Julian Ralph, then on the Sun and also a special correspondent for the Journal, one day introduced me to the late Alfred M. Williams, who was in the city looking for an editorial writer. Never having written any editorials, I suppose I thought I should like to; at any rate, after a very pleasant dinner with Mr. Williams at a Broadway hotel, I agreed to go. It so happened that I left New York shortly before the great blizzard of 1888 arrived there, and, as it passed a little north of Providence, I, like others there, had only the indirect effects. At a time when the wires were all down and the trains were all stalled, so that neither telegraphic news nor newspapers reached the Journal office, I, who had never written an editorial in my life, found it incumbent to write them all for a day or two.

"However, I have some remarkably pleasant recollections of Providence and the Journal. At the time I went there the office was in the old building on Weybosset street, I believe, but the editorial writers, Mr. Prynn, Mr. Luther, and myself, were given more ornamental quarters in an adjoining building where there was a library composed mainly of Congressional Records. As I remember it, our usual procedure of a day was at a certain hour, about 11 A. M., to go down to the office of Mr. Williams for suggestions that we sometimes got and

more often did not. I don't remember of receiving many, for there was a sort of understanding that I could take anything that did not belong to the other two.

"Mr. Williams was a man of peculiar traits, and at first not easily understood by one who, having first caught the glint of his rare intellect over the dinner table, as I had, next found him alarmingly stiff and solemn in his editorial chair. The more I saw of him the better I liked him. It was astonishing what a wealth of wit there was beneath his grim demeanor.

"I always made it a point to call on Mr. Davis once a week, whether he returned the calls or not. He always had the money ready. He was uniformly kind and good natured. Such men live to a good old age, and they ought to."

#### RICHARD ALDRICH OF NEW YORK.

He laid the foundation for future success as a writer when employed by the Journal.

Among the "graduates" of the Journal is Richard Aldrich, who took up newspaper work in New York city ten years ago and has followed his specialty of writing about music until he is now occupying an important position in charge of that department on the New York Times. As his boyhood home was in Providence, his impressions of life on the paper are associated with his school days and previous life in the city. In his congratulations to Mr. Davis he says:

"I can hardly persuade myself that your typewriter has not gone astray in putting down Mr. Davis's service



in the Journal office as fifty years. When I was in that office a few weeks ago he looked exactly as he did eighteen years before, when I first entered the Journal's service—just as bright in the eye, just as well and as darkly thatched, just as active in every movement, just as alert in watching the expense account, just as proud of the Journal, and I needn't say just as kindly and gracious in his greeting, as he has been for all these years, which you say are fifty. When I went on the Journal's city staff, just out of college, it seemed to me as if everybody had always known Henry Davis as a matter of course—he knew my father and I came into a sort of inheritance of his friendship. But he didn't seem to me very venerable then even; and he has been growing steadily less so ever since. I went upon the staff just after Mr. Howland became manager. The Sunday Journal had just been started. Access to the 'back office' was not what it used to be. There was a new impulse in the paper that even a beginner could not help feeling; and there was a certain impression in some quarters that there had been a revolution in Rhode Island. I came to Mr. Williams with a note from my cousin, President James B. Angell, who had been an editor of the Journal under Governor Anthony. Mr. Williams seemed to be favorably inclined toward young college graduates. He pushed me along toward lines that he wanted developed on the paper. He seemed to think well of some articles about the Providence artists that I turned in in the intervals of covering the old justice court in Canal street in the morning and what in New York they call police headquarters work at night. I became art editor. Then I undertook music, for which I had always had a special taste; it had been

previously done by Thomas H. McElroy, when he was not holding down the city and the suburban copy desk. Then I was intrusted with the burden of the dramatic editor. At times I was financial editor, or seemed to be acting as such, when Oliver Munroe went away. I edited city copy, I reviewed books, and finally became an editorial writer. There were periods when I was more different kinds of an editor than I have been during all the years that have elapsed since, in succession. I am sorry that I cannot find time to remember and write down incidents of those days. Very prominent in their memories is that of the friendly helpfulness and the kindly smile of Henry Davis."

#### THE CITY EDITORS.

Manton H. Luther gives his recollections of the late Edward P. Tobie.

Manton H. Luther, who continues his work as a stenographer, with an office in the Opera House building at Chicago, was a reporter on the Journal during the decade from 1870 to 1880, and he gives the following recollections of the city force of that day:

"Edward P. Tobie, Jr., then city editor, was my chief by virtue of office, although as a matter of fact his personal relations with me, and indeed with all who came into his department later, were more the relations of a companion than of a superior in command. He was at that time in the full vigor of his young manhood, a gentleman of about thirty years, active and enthusiastic, quick of action, seemingly doing things without taking the least fraction of a second to think beforehand. Moreover,

Mr. Tobie had the highest appreciation and respect for even the most insignificant speck of news that fell in his way or that he had 'chased down,' and knew how to make the most of everything that promised an 'item.' And thus I found him ever. But this wide-awake and up-to-date newspaper man did indulge himself with one old foggy habit. When he wrote with a pen, it was always a quill pen; and when as we started up the stairway to the city room we heard the squeak, squeak, squeak of Tobie's quill we knew instantly there was something doing. Squeak! Why, that old goose quill fairly squealed when the man behind it was slinging off 'hot stuff.'

"Mr. Tobie had many warm personal friends who visited him at the office, especially among the veterans of the Civil War of whom he was one. I could name many, but will only mention the one of whom I saw the most. That was Capt. Geo. H. Pettis, whom we called 'Coozy' Pettis, the sobriquet being grafted on him by reason of the fact that he once lived in Cohoes, N. Y., from which name it was derived, according to current tradition.

"The only other regular member of the city staff, when I joined it, was William E. Browne, a gentleman of whom I have the most pleasant recollections and who stood high in the esteem of every one who knew him. He was in habit of action just the opposite of Mr. Tobie. I can see him now in my mind's eye, sitting opposite me at the long table, which was in common use in the city room, calmly stroking his luxuriant reddish brown beard with his left hand as he wrote with his right, and at intervals of thirty seconds as the clock ticked solemnly taking a puff at the



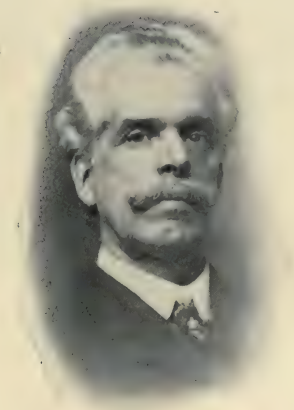
cigar which rested between his teeth. I do not recollect of once seeing him in the least ruffled or discomposed in all the years I knew him.

"So when I joined the Journal's city staff, somewhere near the beginning of the seventies, it was composed of only three men in regular service, namely, City Editor Tobie, Mr. Browne, and myself."

Mr. Browne was for about twenty-five years a reporter on the Journal, and during the first years of his work there he made a specialty of preparing the records of council meetings for publication. His brother, S. T. Browne, was the Journal carrier who was afterwards paymaster in the Navy. About the time of his brother's death, in 1881, William E. Browne resigned from the paper and lived in New London until his death, November 12, 1888. Edward P. Tobie reported on the Journal from 1865 until his death, January 21, 1900, with the exception of a year when he was employed by the Telegram. Until 1882 he was in the office, and upon his return in 1883 he went to Pawtucket, where he was correspondent over six years. Martin C. Day was the first city editor given the title and a staff of reporters whom he might organize. It was natural therefore that the system of making assignments should be developed under his management, for the value of local news was beginning to be recognized and corresponding space was allowed for its publication in the columns of the paper.

During the administration of Mr. Day as city editor the famous Barnaby-Graves poisoning case afforded the Journal an opportunity for enterprise in securing a special report of the trial of Dr. Graves in Denver, Col. Mrs.





FORMER WRITERS AND THE CITY EDITORS.

HENRY C. WHITAKER,

THOMAS STEERE,



Barnaby died out there April 9, 1891, and it was claimed that the fatal result was produced by drinking from a bottle of poisoned whiskey sent her by Dr. Thomas Thatcher Graves of Providence. Mr. Day went to Denver as a witness in the trial, which he reported at length for the Journal. He afterward collected the reports in a volume entitled "Death in the Mail," published by the Journal in 1892. Dr. Graves committed suicide in jail after his conviction. In the accompanying story Mr. Day tells of the organization of the Journal's city staff according to modern methods, a task in which he was succeeded by the present city editor, Mr. Rosenfeld. Mr. Day says:

"During the interval of eighteen years—1876–1894—in which the writer performed service for the Journal as reporter and city editor, the development of the news department, perhaps, was the most pronounced in the history of the paper. The local department was in charge of Edward P. Tobie in 1876. He had been associated with the paper for several years, succeeding his service during the Civil War as adjutant of the 1st Maine Cavalry, and as foreman of a job printing establishment in Lewiston, Me. The reportorial staff consisted of the veteran William Browne, deceased, Manton H. Luther, an expert stenographer and general news-gatherer. The assignment book in those days contained the names of several voluntary and salaried contributors, not attached to the regular staff, and the reports were generally prepared after a style which had become stereotyped and voluminous from force of habit and the ample space which they were permitted to use.

“With such a limited staff seeking to cover a city whose population was over 100,000, subject to day and night assignments, and frequently dispatched to various sections of the State after special news features, it became absolutely imperative that they should be what is termed ‘all round reporters’ as the paper had not reached the department stage and the variety of news demanded considerable versatility and discrimination on the part of the writers.

“Much of the information was reported in those days to the cashier, Henry R. Davis, both in the counting room and on the street, and he sometimes sought news in addition to his other duties. He was highly esteemed in the reportorial department, and the writer desires to express his appreciation of the frequent and unsolicited acts of kindness from Mr. Davis.

“The Journal, keeping pace with the development of the press in the country in catering to the demands of its subscribers for variety and quantity and quality of news matter, promptly augmented its local reportorial department and also established an elaborate suburban service. The staff of reporters was selected with care, and from time to time there were numbered in their ranks graduates of New England colleges and men who had had experience in metropolitan journalism. The paper entered into active competition with special correspondents of the leading daily publications sent to the local field to cover important events, and sent trained men outside its home jurisdiction to furnish special reports of happenings of interest to its Rhode Island constituency.

“On the occasion of the celebration of the 250th an-



niversary of the founding of the city of Providence it issued a thirty-six-page paper, amply illustrated by its own artists, and covered the anniversary programme of those days with such completeness and merit that it received much complimentary criticism from the press.

"In the early stages of the Sunday Journal the majority of the special illustrated articles were prepared by the regular staff in addition to their daily routine, which necessitated frequent burning of the 'midnight oil.' The city editor, with a limited force, was compelled very frequently to assign himself to sundry events, and the spirit of loyalty and consideration, which has always been a conspicuous element in the local news department, dominated the force."

Among the Journal "graduates" is George A. Stockwell, late secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. After his graduation from Brown he was for a short time on the Boston Advertiser. He came to the Journal in 1879 and remained until 1883, and he had charge of the market reports during much of that period. He originated rather a novel way of calling attention to the features each day in the local market, for he would begin or end his articles with the announcement of seasonable fruit or vegetables sometimes in two or three short words or by the mere mention of the prevailing price.

Henry Mann made a study of sewerage and sewage problems when that subject was exciting considerable interest in Providence, and he also wrote a book on the history of the local police department, recounting the brave deeds of officers.

Allen B. Lincoln, a Yale graduate, was for a short time

editorial writer on the Journal. He came to Providence from Hartford, and was afterwards actively identified with the Prohibitionist cause.

Arthur F. Bowers, long city editor on the New York Tribune and the sporting authority on that newspaper, did some of his early work on the Journal.

The late E. M. Arnold, who did marine reporting when connected with the local custom house, will be remembered as a one armed man, who was a familiar figure on the street.

The late Edwin R. Gardiner was a shorthand writer who did general reporting. To the average observer he seemed listless and sleepy when filling an assignment, but when a matter of importance came up he was on the alert in a moment, so the resulting work was conscientious and thorough.

John C. Dyer, the sporting and yachting authority, is dead. He enjoyed life while it lasted, and his specialty brought him such recognition as an election to secretaryship of the kennel club.

Walter J. Lord was drowned in the Pawtuxet, Frank Purinton died in a retreat, and James E. Hanrahan, who started a column of Catholic news which became a feature of the paper, fell a victim to consumption.

Fred L. C. Keating became an attorney in New York city, George Farnell studied law and has an office in the Industrial Trust building, and George F. McKinnon is clerk in the sixth district court, with office in the old State House building.

Among those who have secured political positions are Samuel Gee, secretary of the police commission in Provi-

dence; Charles Hervey, who held office with the New York city government until Tammany came into power; Charles H. Howland, who is recording clerk of the House in the Rhode Island Assembly; Richard W. Jennings, who is secretary of the Rhode Island State returning board; George H. Pettis, who is State sealer of weights and measures; Charles H. Pierce, inspector of drains; and Nathan M. Wright, who is secretary of the Republican State central committee.

Mr. Pettis was marine reporter when he went to the Grand Army convention of 1886 in California and renewed the scenes of his youth in that vicinity. He once set type on the San Francisco Call when Bret Harte was connected with the Golden Era, published in the same building. He was thus familiar with the early California miners, about whom he has written much for the Journal and other newspapers.

Nathan M. Wright joined the Journal staff in 1890 and in 1893 became secretary to the publisher, a position he held for ten years. He edited the annual Journal almanac a number of years.

Virgil Blackinton is now with the Attleboro Sun, Charles E. Lincoln is Providence correspondent for the Boston Herald, Thomas H. McElroy is editor of the Providence News, Edward E. Frost went to the Sunday Telegram, Clifford P. Shattuck, who started the Journal's bowling reports, is on the Pawtucket Times.

Fred A. Austin, who followed the Rhode Island soldiers to camp as correspondent of the Journal during the war with Spain, is now on the New York Tribune; Franklin Clarkin holds an important place on the New

York Evening Post, Charles A. Selden is on the New York Sun; Lewis R. Southworth on the New York World; Edward B. Morse on the Telegram, the evening edition of the New York Herald; Fred Ladd has been writing jokes for the humorous papers, and Henry C. Salandri, who came to America with the Italian delegation to the Philadelphia centennial in 1876, is on the Worcester Telegram.

Andrew Adams sought his fortune in the Sandwich Islands when they were annexed to the United States, and William H. Burt, who was correspondent while serving in the Philippines, is now lieutenant in the United States artillery.

Professor Stephen S. Colvin, now teaching at Brown, was once reporter for the Journal, as was his wife, who was Miss Eva Collins when she was so employed.

S. James Foster made a specialty of bicycle news. He is with Weeden & Co., brokers.

Charles J. Lincoln is engaged in shipbuilding on the Pacific coast.

Andrew J. McConico, a Brown graduate, became a Pullman car conductor after he left the Journal, and W. Cary Sheppard entered the Episcopal ministry and is a rector in Vancouver, Washington.

Henry B. Slade is a chemist, and was once connected with the milk inspection department in City Hall.

Thomas W. Williams has been a member of the Massachusetts legislature, but he keeps up newspaper work, for he edited the wireless daily published by the Journal on Block Island last summer.

Dr. Arthur McGinn, who is now practicing medicine



in Providence, once reported Catholic news for the Journal.

#### AN EXPERIENCE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Benefit Mr. Hamm Obtained from his Experience in the Composing Room. His Tribute to Mr. Danielson.

Walter C. Hamm, who was recently appointed United States Consul at Hull, England, found employment in the Journal office while attending Brown University, where he was graduated in the class of 1870. He has been employed on the New York Tribune and the Philadelphia Press. Since his appointment he has remembered his Alma Mater by presenting the library with a valuable collection of newspaper clippings which he made during his work on the Philadelphia Press. His picture of the conditions prevailing here and his entrance to the office is herewith given:

“My connection with the Providence Journal came about in this way: In September, 1866, I entered the Freshman class of Brown University with the intention of taking the regular classical course of four years. As I knew that I must pay my own way through college, my first thought after matriculation was to look about for some way of earning money during my spare hours. I had fixed upon journalism as the profession I hoped to follow, and the idea occurred to me that if I could learn the printer's trade it would give me an opportunity to become acquainted with the practical side of the career I had chosen, and at the same time enable me to earn some of the money necessary to pay my college expenses.

"I laid my case before Dr. Barnas Sears, who was then President of Brown University, and in that broad sympathy which was one of the strongest traits of his noble character, he at once offered to do anything he could to aid me. He proposed that I should go with him to the office of the Providence Journal where he would introduce me to the editor and if possible help me to make some such an arrangement as I desired. And at the appointed time we walked down College Hill together and across Market square to the Journal office, which was then in the Washington Insurance Company's building, facing the outlet of the old cove.

"The events of that forenoon will never fade from my memory. I was as unsophisticated a youth, probably, as ever entered college. I had come fresh from my father's farm in New York State, and although that was situated not far from two inland cities, my habits had been so quiet and studious that I had been brought but little in contact with practical life. Besides I had never been inside of a newspaper office, knew nothing of a printer's 'case' and was entirely ignorant of the routine of a printing establishment. Most anyone can imagine the broad charity needed to admit such a youth to a newspaper office and give him the opportunity to learn the mysteries of typesetting and at the same time earn some money.

"But broad as was the charity and patience needed, I quickly found that it existed under the quiet, self-contained exterior of the late George W. Danielson, then managing editor of the Journal. He at once apprehended the situation, placed me at my ease in conversation, and opened

the way for me to reach my object. A printer's case was put at my disposal, and he himself offered to initiate me into the mysteries of the old style of typesetting. At the same time he gave me liberty to come and go as my duties at the college permitted. And for four years I went in and out of the Journal office, spending every hour there I could take from my studies, and sometimes more perhaps than I ought.

"Those were the days of hand typesetting. I soon found out that I could never become an expert at the trade. My eye was not ready enough, and my hand never acquired the art of picking up the type quickly. And had it not been for the strain of Dutch perseverance that came to me from my father I doubt if I should have persisted. But my desire for a college education and the need of paying my own way kept me down to the work; and at last the stern task was done; my graduation paper was in my hands and I could leave college, if not with honors, at least with credit.

"I have often wondered since how the patience of Mr. Danielson could have held out during those four years. I must have tried him often. If regularity is needed anywhere it is in a newspaper office, and yet I was permitted to come and go as I wished, to set a small or large amount of type, and as soon as I could finish my copy I was paid regular printer's rates. Such an arrangement was unusually advantageous to me, and the willingness of Mr. Danielson to grant such terms shows his kindly nature in its best light. He never lost his interest in me. Whenever in after years I went to Providence and called at the Journal office he was always eager to hear of my

success and to give me advice. To the end he numbered me among the Journal 'boys.' Perhaps he never knew how profoundly he had affected my after-life. I have always regretted that the sudden and all too early end of his life prevented my making known to him the obligations under which I stood. I have often wished also for an opportunity to pay my tribute to his character.

"My services on the Journal taught me some valuable lessons. One of them was the need of being careful in the preparation of copy for the printer. In those days the professors at the college and the best known ministers in the Providence pulpits were frequent contributors to the Journal. They helped it to maintain a high standard of literary merit on its editorial page and in its correspondence. But their manuscript was often a crucifixion to the printer. I have seen experienced typesetters sit down in despair after an unavailable attempt to decipher a page of the late Professor Diman's copy. Professor Gammell's and the Rev. Dr. Caldwell's penmanship was a shade better. But the copy of the Rev. Augustus Woodbury, who then occupied the pulpit of the Westminster Congregational Church, was a prize eagerly sought after by every typesetter. It was as clear as print. And when I saw a printer losing valuable time in trying to decipher badly written manuscript, and knew that his daily wage depended upon the amount of type he set, I readily recognized the value of clearly written manuscript to a printer. I carried this lesson with me, and I am glad to say it was rare indeed that a printer had to lose time in deciphering a slovenly written line in my copy.

"I formed some friendships in the Journal office which



I have always cherished. One of them was with William Danielson, brother of the editor, who was kindness itself in guiding my hand through many of the difficulties of learning the printer's trade. Another is with Henry Davis. I well remember the keen but kindly look he gave me as I passed through the counting room of the Journal the first time in company with Dr. Sears on our way to the little room over the stairway which Mr. Danielson used as his sanctum. The courtesy with which Mr. Davis invariably treated me afterwards was an encouragement which helped me over some rough places in those years. I do not suppose he made any exception in my case, his demeanor towards me being only the natural expression of his cheerful, healthful temperament. In my career since I have met no one who combined more of the urbanity of the true gentlemen with business capacity than does Henry Davis. And it is pleasant to know that he is still with the Journal, and is about finishing a half-century in its service."



## CHAPTER V.

### CONTRIBUTORS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

The Brown University Professors who Contributed of Their Special Information.—Women who Wrote Poems or Letters of Travel.—The Washington Correspondents.





## CONTRIBUTORS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

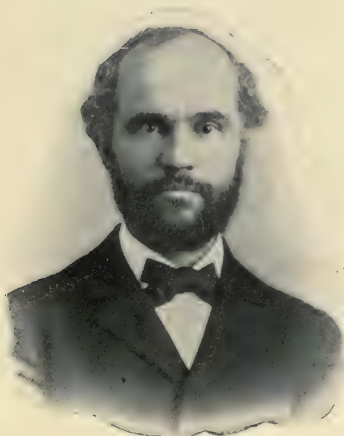
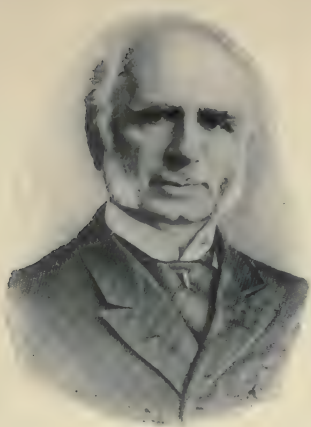
The editorial force of the modern newspaper considers itself sufficiently equipped to deal intelligently with the subjects that ordinarily arise for discussion, but in the days when one man had to do most of the writing it was necessary to invite outside aid if prompt comment was attempted on all current events. It has been the policy of the Journal to discuss subjects as the news of the day called attention to them, and as far as possible to have the comment accurate as well as timely. No doubt the Journal reader has had occasion to wonder sometimes how the editor could have such intimate knowledge about a prominent man as was shown in the obituary published of him the morning after he died, when the characterization had been prepared by some college professor who had made a special study of the person in his regular department work. While Senator Anthony's experience in the city enabled him to know pretty well where the proper authority could be found to write on each question, it was Mr. Danielson who developed this reserve force to a system until he could in an emergency send a message as late as midnight and find the writer needed.

Brown University has had an important part in the editorial conduct of the Journal, for not only have many of the editors graduated from that institution, but Brown professors have frequently been called on for contributions or have offered them voluntarily. Senator Anthony was

graduated from Brown in 1833, Henry C. Whitaker received his degree there in 1838 and James B. Angell in 1849, while Richard S. Howland, the present editor and manager, took his Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown in 1868. Alfred M. Williams spent two years there in boyhood and in 1883 received an honorary degree from Brown, as did Frederick Roy Martin in 1902, while the first reporters were often students who were called on when needed, while their instructors prepared many of the editorial articles.

Rev. Dr. Barnas Sears, President of the college from 1855 to 1867, occasionally contributed to the *Journal* during his term of office. His knowledge of the English language was so thorough and his use of words so discriminating that he had been selected to edit Roget's *Thesaurus of Synonyms*; he might therefore be considered one of the most careful writers of the day. Dr. Alexis Caswell, President of Brown from 1868 to 1872, had made meteorological observations in Providence for over forty-five years, and much of that time he reported weather features for the *Journal* every month, dating his contributions from "College Hill." His son-in-law, President Angell, has referred to the importance of the data he collected. Rev. Dr. Samuel L. Caldwell, who was President of Vassar College from 1878 to 1885, had been pastor of the First Baptist Church in Providence for fifteen years; he returned to the city with an intimate knowledge of its institutions and was able to render valuable aid to the editorial force.

During his connection with the college for thirty-two years, Professor William Gammell was a frequent con-



CONTRIBUTORS FROM BROWN UNIVERSITY.

WILLIAM GAMMELL,  
ROBERT A. GAMMON,

J. LEWIS DIMAN,





tributor to the Journal, furnishing editorial articles, obituaries, and literary discussions. Professor John L. Lincoln generally wrote on art subjects. Professor J. Lewis Diman, who had the chair of history and political economy at Brown, probably contributed as much as Professor Gammell, and he covered a wide range of subjects, although he was most frequently asked to comment on European politics. He was graduated in the class of 1851, and when he died, thirty years later, the Journal paid an appreciative tribute to his work, in which it said:

“On great occasions, when we were called upon to revive the memories of the past or to be informed in respect to current events, it was to Professor Diman that we instinctively turned as the man best fitted for the work. Of late years it has seemed as though no event in the records of Rhode Island could be duly commemorated unless he was willing to tell the story or ‘adorn the tale.’ He was distinguished abroad as well as at home, not only as a consummate master of history, but also as one of the profoundest thinkers of the day. \* \* \* \* \*

There was hardly any class of subjects which he was not competent to handle. He had read a great deal and carefully digested all he read. His resources were always at command, his thought never lacked utterance; his style was compact, clear as crystal, and adorned with chaste and apposite illustration. He used no superfluous words, yet he never failed to make himself intelligible, no matter how recondite the subject he treated.”

Rev. John C. Stockbridge, who was for a time registrar of the college, was able to serve the Journal with facts connected with the institution; and Reuben A. Guild

was especially useful when he was librarian, for he did not confine himself to the college, but wrote on historical subjects and contributed local obituaries. When large religious conventions, like the American Board meeting, were held in Providence, entire oversight of the work of reporting them was often given him. He also prepared the annual necrology list of Brown alumni, which is published about Commencement time, a task which since his death has been taken up by Professor W. C. Poland. The work of Dr. Guild was more in the way of patient research than original thought, but it was none the less serviceable to the paper. The contributions from Professor T. W. Bancroft were purely literary, consisting largely of poetry. Professor Alonzo Williams, who was graduated in 1870, was one of the pioneers in taking long bicycle tours as a recreation. His letters from Europe as "Ixion," while traveling in foreign lands on a wheel, were a novelty at that time. He was a brilliant scholar, whose untimely death was much mourned. For forty years Professor William Whitman Bailey has told the Journal readers about the common flowers that may be found each season in this vicinity. Amateur botanists who search for the earliest unfolding of the petals in the spring have usually found that Professor Bailey had discovered them first, but he is a generous lover of nature and shares his knowledge of their hiding places with those who are enough interested to follow his directions. Among the first popular articles on astronomy to appear in any daily paper were those prepared by Miss Emma M. Converse for the Journal. They were so readable that exchanges copied them or soon started

similar columns of their own. She was succeeded in this work by Professor Winslow Upton of Brown, who with the resources of the college and its astronomical apparatus is able to deal with the subject more scientifically; but it would be difficult to improve on Miss Converse's attractive way of presenting the subject, which encouraged attention to the study of the skies.

Besides Brown professors, probably the largest class of contributors to the Journal have been the clergymen, for the local pastors have generally been interested in sociological subjects or in the new books which they were asked to review. The co-operation of the late Bishop Clark was always available in good causes, and he wrote about the Sanitary Commission, in which he took such an active part during the Civil War. Rev. Frederic Denison, Brown, 1847, served as chaplain during the Civil War, and thus became identified with the soldiers about whom he frequently wrote. He also made a specialty of local history, and was well prepared to furnish material for dealing with early life in Rhode Island when attempts were made to preserve such landmarks as Indian burying grounds. The muse also attracted Mr. Denison, who frequently wrote verse for the paper. Rev. Edwin M. Stone, a Unitarian minister, frequently wrote for the paper. He prepared the pamphlet in 1870 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the paper, and he contributed articles to its columns on various subjects. An arrangement was made with Rev. J. J. Woolley to write every week an article on the Sunday school lesson for the following Sunday, which was published Saturday mornings. Some of the best book reviews ever written



for the Journal were those prepared by Rev. Dr. C. A. L. Richards of St. John's Church, and Rev. W. F. B. Jackson has done work of a similar nature. Mr. Jackson also did newspaper work in the office during Mr. Danielson's time, and when he went abroad in the 80's he wrote letters from Dresden, Rome, and Berlin. He has done much editorial writing, especially for such anniversaries as Christmas, and contributed his twelfth article on this festival last year.

When the Sunday edition of the Journal was started there was prejudice shown at first against its publication by church people, and the Sunday "sermon," which was preached in the editorial column by Rev. Hamilton M. Bartlett, assistant to Rev. Dr. Greer of Grace Church, did much to overcome this sentiment. Mr. Bartlett wrote this with the cordial approval of his rector, and he afterwards gave a fresh illustration of his liberal spirit and devotion to religion by resigning the charge of a wealthy parish and going as missionary to North Yakima, Wash. There was hardly a philanthropic question before the people that Rev. Dr. E. B. Hall did not feel called upon to promote by an appeal when he was pastor of the First Congregational Church on Benefit street, and Rev. C. A. Staples did similar work. Rev. Dr. Heman Lincoln, pastor of the Central Baptist Church, was called upon sometimes for editorials; and Rev. S. H. Webb, a retired Episcopal clergyman, who had been the friend of every good cause, was always glad to use the columns of the paper to advocate measures for helping people. Rev. Augustus Woodbury, eulogist at the funerals of Senator Anthony and Mr. Danielson, also wrote occasionally, as



did Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Slicer. Rev. C. C. Beaman, whose son became the law partner of Senator Evarts, was the author of sketches from Scituate, which afterward appeared in book form. Rev. H. W. Conant, agent of the State Temperance Society, contributed articles on Prohibition subjects, Rev. J. E. C. Sawyer reported such events denominational as a Methodist conference; Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Taylor of the First Baptist Church and Rev. G. L. Westgate were also contributors.

In scientific matters, the column entitled "Notes and Discoveries" was started by Rev. R. M. Devens of Norton, Mass., who made notes from periodicals each week, and his contributions attracted no little attention. A unique feature of his work was his handwriting, which was a script so regular that it seemed almost like printed matter. A foundry whose attention was called to the chirography adopted it for a font, which was called the Devens type. Although the letters were so regular, Mr. Devens wrote rapidly and apparently with little effort. Dr. Edwin M. Snow, Brown, 1845, was long city registrar and municipal health officer. He made a special study of such contagious diseases as small-pox and yellow fever, and contributed from the abundance of his information to the columns of the Journal. Dr. W. F. Channing, son of Ellery Channing, made a specialty of sociological reform, although he was interested in all inventions, especially the telephone, and wrote about them for the Journal. Among the medical authorities who have been contributors was Dr. Charles W. Parsons, a graduate of Harvard. He was a nephew of Oliver Wendell Holmes, whom he resembled in feature. Dr. George B. Peck,

who is still practicing in Providence, was one of the Journal contributors.

Probably as distinguished an army officer as any who contributed to the Journal was Col. J. Albert Munroe, who was an engineer after leaving the artillery service. During the Civil War he participated in thirty-one engagements and had four horses shot under him. He once commanded the well-known Cushing battery, which was afterward stationed at Newport. As an engineer he was engaged in many enterprises, including the survey of the Mississippi river and the building of a bridge over the Thames river at New London, Conn. He prepared for the Journal the series of articles on the war relics of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Historical Society, and he wrote the chapter on the growth of manufacturing in Providence, published at the 250th anniversary of the founding of the town. The contributions of former Governor Henry Howard appeared over his initials and often related to mechanical subjects, with which he was especially familiar. He also wrote letters of travel in this country and abroad and prepared parodies on familiar verse and dialect sketches.

Letters from Tunis can be found frequently in the files of the Journal, which were written by Amos Perry, who was United States Consul there. He brought representatives of that government to America on a visit, and he began negotiations with that country which resulted in bringing home the body of John Howard Payne for burial in his native land. Mr. Perry was for twenty years secretary of the Rhode Island Historical Society and while connected with that institution he improved his oppor-

tunity for writing. Foreign letters also came from Samuel T. Browne, paymaster in the Navy, who continued the interest in the Journal which he had formed while a carrier for the paper. Albert O. Tilden also wrote letters of travel during his career in the Navy. Beginning as a war correspondent when appointed chaplain of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment, Rev. John D. Buegless continued that work, after he became chaplain in the Navy, until his death at Nagasaki, July 31, 1887. Letters from Japan were contributed by Professor William S. Liscomb, Brown, 1872, who went to that country to take the presidency of a college. He had been a contributor to the Atlantic and other publications, and wrote excellent verse. Articles from California were occasionally written by Gen. Francis James Lippitt, veteran of the Mexican and Civil wars, who always kept up his interest in Providence and occasionally visited the city. William M. Hale, Brown, 1841, was forced to move to Colorado for his health, and his breezy sketches to the Journal from the western plains were filled with allusions to the Rhode Island home from which he had been banished.

One of the most valued contributors to the Journal was John R. Bartlett, father of Rear Admiral Bartlett. He was Secretary of State for seventeen years, and was the confidential adviser of John Carter Brown in the preparation of his rare collection of books and manuscripts. Among the substantial business men who have written for the Journal was William Binney, whose co-operation in municipal matters was particularly valuable when he was a member of the Common Council. When articles were wanted on the cotton market, William Goddard

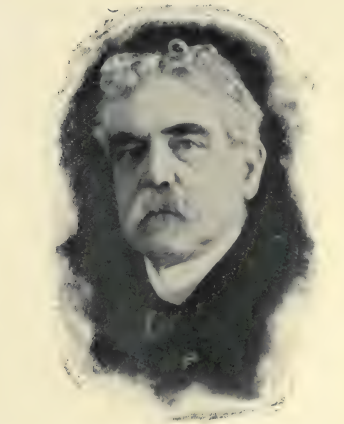
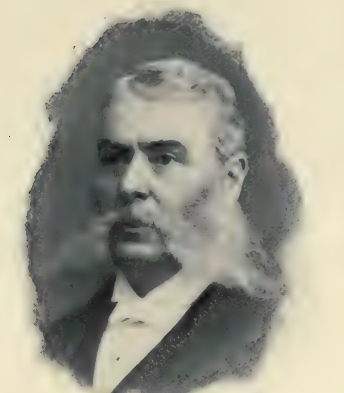


was often called upon. He was chairman of the commission appointed to devise plans for terminal facilities in Providence, and although its recommendations were not adopted at first, the solution of the difficulty finally offered by the committee of "experts" was almost the same, and it was accepted, although under a different name. All through the discussion which resulted in a change of railroad grade and a new station, Mr. Goddard took a prominent part through the Journal columns.

On art subjects the contributions of Albert J. Jones, which dealt especially with sculpture, came from Italy. The music critic for the Journal was at one time Theodore T. Barker, a teacher in singing who kept a piano warehouse. Sydney R. Burleigh, the artist, has occasionally written about paintings, but his father, George S. Burleigh, wrote more frequently, generally dealing with some Socialistic subject, for he was greatly interested in that theory. He also wrote poetry. The appearance of the senior Burleigh was certainly striking, for he wore curls and a long white beard. William E. Foster, the librarian, has written scholarly articles for the Journal, especially dealing with books and literature.

Joshua M. Addeman, vice-president of the Industrial Trust Co., was Secretary of State from 1872 to 1887, and did considerable work for the Journal during that time, especially in preparing a review of the acts of the Assembly, which was published the day after that body adjourned. He had previously reported lectures and other matters for the Journal, and when he went to the war he sent letters about his battalion of colored troops. Charles Blake, for over thirty years clerk of the Supreme Court,





GENERAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JOURNAL.

E. H. HAZARD,  
EDWARD J. CUSHING,

THOMAS R. HAZARD,  
CHARLES BLAKE,



was relied on to furnish the decisions handed down by that body. He was graduated from Brown in 1855, in the class with Richard Olney, President Cleveland's former Secretary of State, and he has been an authority on theatrical and historical matters. Governor Elisha Dyer, the senior, and Judge Horatio Rogers generally wrote on matters of local history.

Levi W. Russell, formerly principal of the Bridgham street grammar school, occupied some of his time when spending vacations in Ashburnham, Mass., in preparing the "Up Country Sketches" which were a feature of the Journal correspondence. Sylvester Southworth was especially interested in the theatre, but after his retirement from active work he wrote the letters from Morrisiana, N. Y., over the signature "John Smith of Arkansas" that revived old memories of Providence. The letters of Orville M. Remington dealt with various subjects, and they were always interesting and full of observations on local life.

Albert C. Holbrook, who was retiring and keenly sensitive to criticism, was interested in antiquarian matters and wrote about them for the Journal. George C. Mason of Newport, once editor of the Mercury in that city, used the *nom de guerre* "Aquidneck" for his articles.

The conspicuous humorist of the paper was Edward J. Cushing of North Providence, who contributed a series of articles from New York at the request of Senator Anthony. Their wit has not lost flavor by the lapse of time, for they are just as amusing to-day as when they were written over twenty years ago. Mr. Cushing is the author of a little work called "Business Men's

Lyrics," and this, together with his remarks on debtors and creditors, established his reputation as a wit with keen insight into the frailties of humanity and with a fertile imagination. His humor was so refined and his wit so sparkling that his articles were notable. One of the comparatively recent efforts of Mr. Cushing, which brings a laugh whenever it is recalled to those who heard it, was his famous address before the old Press Club. His funny sayings gained strength from the grave way in which he uttered them—as if each word caused him pain.

The lawyers who have been contributors to the Journal include the late Judge George M. Carpenter, who was once a reporter, and Hon. John H. Stiness, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who was particularly interested in the move for the new Court House building, when a member of the Assembly. Abraham Payne wrote articles for the Journal all through his career as a member of the bar, and his discriminating sketches of former associates were afterward published in book form. In the latter days of his life he wrote on general subjects, and the paper was always glad to receive his contributions. He was one of the friends Senator Anthony welcomed to this family circle, and he was intimately associated with Journal editors for many years. His death, in 1886, called forth this appreciative comment:

"Mr. Payne, brilliant in private life and among friends, saw himself passed in the race of life for riches by many who had neither his wit nor his learning. Aside from a certain inherent cynicism, he had a most judicial mind. He saw things clearly, he saw all sides of all questions, and he usually saw to the bottom of issues."



John C. Pegram, who was for a time associated with Mr. Payne in practice, had been educated for the Navy, but he resigned three years after graduating from the Academy in 1863. His first work for the Journal consisted of the "Quahaug" papers, contributed from Bristol, which appeared between 1873 and 1875. During the administrations of Mr. Danielson and Mr. Williams he frequently wrote editorial articles and book reviews for the paper. He also contributed excellent verse.

Hon. William P. Sheffield of Newport, who was appointed United States Senator to succeed Senator Anthony and served two months in that position until his successor was elected, began writing for the paper in 1853. He served in the Assembly when the agitation over the Ives-Hazard affair was so acute that a caucus had voted to remove the judges of the Supreme Court. He stood up in their defence until this action was rescinded. When a member of the Assembly in 1866 he was appointed chairman of a committee to investigate the condition of the Indian tribe living in Charlestown. At Mr. Danielson's request he wrote about the Indians, and his article published in the Journal attracted no little attention at the time.

Edward Field, clerk of the Municipal Court, and the well-known historian, has written occasionally for the Journal. Josiah B. Bowditch, who was for a time Commissioner of Industrial Statistics in Rhode Island, is a regular contributor on local statistics, especially concerning registration and the final summary of the votes of the State.

When Charles Pitts Robinson of Providence went abroad

he wrote letters to the Journal from Rome and other places. Strangers in the "Eternal City" were then the object of no little suspicion, and the hotel rooms occupied by the Robinsons were searched one day while they were absent and several Journal letters were included in the articles that were confiscated.

A prominent place among the Journal contributors belongs to Edward H. Hazard, the lawyer, who was for a long time the local "obituary editor." No Rhode Island public man died in his time whose friends did not look the next day for the familiar style of Mr. Hazard and his original expressions of eulogy. The Hazard obituary often began with a selection of poetry, followed by the brief sentence "—— ——— is dead." Then came personal reminiscences of events in which the writer himself took an active part, and an array of facts that might well surprise those who had not taken pains to store material for such occasions. He generally used several Latin sentences before the close, to add a touch of the classics to his estimates. So well recognized was the Hazard style that when Charles Blake once imitated it to pen his own obituary the article created a sensation; for those who received copies that had been printed for private circulation thought that Mr. Blake must really be dead. When Gov. Van Zandt received the Blake "obituary" at Newport he could draw no other conclusion, for the composition was apparently Mr. Hazard's, and he inferred that his friend Danielson had sent him the slip. The amusing part of it was that the Governor cast about to see whom he might appoint Mr. Blake's successor as clerk of the Supreme Court, not being aware at the time

that the Court itself must make the appointment, until the Assembly should meet. Mr. Hazard took the joke pleasantly, but he wrote few obituaries after that, and he always gave as the reason the fact that Mr. Blake had robbed him of his occupation. Mr. Hazard's personality attracted attention especially in his later years, for he was accustomed to appear on the streets with a shawl tightly clutched about his shoulders, long after the fashion had changed in favor of the modern overcoat. His success as a pleader at the bar was due, perhaps, to the quality of his voice, with its "tearful pitch," and he often tried to learn about the antecedents or the family of the jurymen that he might use some word of praise to weigh in favor of his side of the case when the verdict was being made up. Miss Caroline Hazard, President of Wellesley College, herself a contributor to the Journal, has written this account of the part the Hazard family took in the columns of the paper:

"Probably the most voluminous contributor to the Providence Journal, of the Hazard family, was the late Mr. Edward Hull Hazard. From the time of his graduation from Brown, in 1834, Mr. Hazard's ready pen was at the service of his fellow citizens. He belonged to a distinguished little group of lawyers, and had the great example of Sumner and Choate. It was still the day of stirring eloquence with polished and flowing sentences, reaching a climax which would thrill an audience. Something of this style of appeal pervaded his written composition as well, and for all the years of his later life he was the man who was turned to to describe the virtues and lament the loss of men whom he had known. He had a



singularly charming gift of coming into close association with many different persons. His very failings were on the side of human brotherhood, and his joyous spirit found a point of contact in every person of his acquaintance. He was therefore a born eulogist. His kindly pen depicted only the virtues of his friends and set them before his readers in glowing colors. Not only did he commemorate those who had gone before—although this was perhaps his most distinctive service in writing for the Journal—but his comments on everyday affairs were also freely offered, and always pointed and witty.

“Another member of the Hazard family, who in his later years published a good deal in the columns of the Journal, was the late Thomas Robinson Hazard, who delighted to call himself Shepherd Tom, from the occupation of his youth, when he introduced South Down sheep in southern Rhode Island and was famous for his flock. Mr. Hazard was born in the closing days of the eighteenth century, and his retentive mind presented vivid pictures of Rhode Island in the early days of the nineteenth. He was educated at Westtown School, near Philadelphia, but returned to Rhode Island before 1820, and lived either in Narragansett or Portsmouth on the Island of Rhode Island, for the rest of his long life, which extended to nearly ninety years. In his vigorous early manhood, he was a prime mover in promoting better care for the insane; and one of the notable services which he rendered to the State was his report on the condition of the rural insane. In this report he manifested that vigor of style and clearness of statement which characterized his writings. About the middle of his life he be-



came an ardent Spiritualist and wrote much for the columns of the Journal, and for other papers, in support of the peculiar views which he espoused so warmly. There was something in him of the mystic as well as the practical man—the poet as well as the man of affairs. And when in his ripe old age he began to write of his early experiences and the land of his birth, there was a certain glamour which pervaded his writing, a touch of mourning joy which illumined his reminiscences, which made them particularly delightful to his readers.

“The series of papers for the Journal by which he will be best remembered are called the ‘Jonny-Cake Papers,’ and have been published in book form. He begins very simply by describing the different sorts of meal produced by the grinding of different granite stones, flat meal and round meal. About the virtues of this ambrosia, as he calls it, which he considers a food fit for the gods, and about the baking of the jonny cake he weaves all sorts of anecdotes and recounts experiences of his early days in a manner which is quite fascinating. These papers were continued almost up to the time of his death, and make a contribution to the literature of the State which any student of its history must reckon with as throwing side lights on its past.

“There have been other contributors to the columns of the Journal of the name of Hazard—Rowland Gibson Hazard and Rowland Hazard, who both expressed themselves trenchantly upon topics of the time as occasion offered. More distinctive literary compositions have been published from the pen of Caroline Hazard—little prose

meditations, or bits of verse on aspects of nature, and tales of Narragansett."

The Hazard family had so many "Toms" that they were popularly distinguished by such titles as "Shepherd Tom," "College Tom," "Nailer Tom," etc., and it is claimed there were thirty-seven such prefixes employed.

The "Jonny Cake Papers" (he spelled Johnny without the h) which were dedicated to Phillis, his grandfather's colored cook, appeared in the Journal during the year 1879, and they were printed as a book in 1882. Thomas R. Hazard was one of the most interesting characters in the State, and his name is associated with movements for the cause of popular education, the defence of the poor, and the protection of the weak. He bought the historic Vacluse estate in Portsmouth, where he continued farming as a recreation, but his serious work was for the benefit of his fellows.

As the Journal staff was increased there was less need for calling on outside contributors for comment, but an opportunity has always been afforded in its columns for the fullest discussion of public questions. When public parks for cities began to receive attention, the late Dr. Timothy Newell was one of the first to take hold of the matter in Providence. He had always been interested in horticulture and gardening, about which he had written much for the paper, and he was glad to avail himself of the opportunity of publishing a series of articles in the Journal on breathing spaces in Europe, which he afterward collected in pamphlet form for distribution by the Public Park Association, in which he was the most active worker.



WOMEN WRITERS FOR THE JOURNAL.

MISS NORA PERRY,

MISS CAROLINE HAZARD,

MISS EMMA M. CONVERSE.





His successor in this work is Henry A. Barker, treasurer and executive officer of the Public Park Association, who had been previously a contributor to the Journal. Dr. Newell's work was for the love of the subject, and there was such an increase in this class of correspondence that the "Letters to the Editor" became a feature in the Sunday Journal. Perhaps the comments of the late Henry C. Clark, which were frequent and contained positive opinions on various public matters, did as much to bring this change about as any other influence, for he was likely to express opinions with which the editors did not agree and for which they did not care to assume the responsibility.

It was not until Miss Sara F. Hopkins became a member of the staff in 1886 that a regular woman's department appeared in the Journal, and then much of it was experimental work. Miss Hopkins had reported the Mardi Gras festival at New Orleans for the Journal in 1885, and she came to the paper with a record of literary work for several publications, while she had contributed a story to the Youth's Companion that had won a prize. It was her duty to select matter that she thought would appeal especially to the sex, and the task was not an easy one when there was no precedent to follow. When women everywhere were organizing and Colonial Dames were searching the records to establish their right to enrollment as members, Mrs. Emma Shaw Colcleugh started a club department in the Journal.

Mrs. Colcleugh had also made a reputation as a traveler, acquiring interesting material on her trips in far countries, which she described for various publications.

She visited Alaska in 1884, when the resources of that country were little developed, and went there again the next year stopping at Yellowstone Park on the way. In 1888 she went to British Columbia, and repeated the visit the following season. She went to the Sandwich Islands in 1890, she explored the McKenzie river in 1894, and made a trip to Labrador and Newfoundland in 1895. In 1897 she sailed about the islands in the South Pacific ocean, covering over 30,000 miles. Mrs. Colcleugh accompanied Miss Hopkins to Cuba in 1899 to study conditions of the poor and of the children suffering from the effects of the war. The next year Mrs. Colcleugh went to Porto Rico, and in 1902 she was commissioned by the Journal to go to Africa and write about the savage tribes of the equatorial regions.

Although this department in the Journal, especially for women and conducted by women, is comparatively recent, women had long contributed their literary work to the paper. Mrs. Sarah Helen Whitman had occasionally published her poems in the Journal, as did Mrs. Lucy Akerman, author of the lines "Nothing but Leaves," which were used as a hymn. Soon after the death of Senator Anthony, incidents in his life were collected and published in a series of articles which appeared in the Journal from the pen of Miss Sarah Sprague Jacobs, an intimate friend of the family. She was a member of the old Philanstery Club, which included among its members the Senator and other literary people. Mrs. Jane Anthony Eames, a cousin of Senator Anthony, wrote frequent letters for the Journal on trips to Bermuda, or from the New Hampshire parish of her husband, Rev. James

H. Eames. Letters from abroad were also supplied by Mrs. Lucy C. Bainbridge, who traveled around the globe with her husband, pastor of the Central Baptist Church, and called her articles the "Round the World" series. Mrs. Elizabeth K. Churchill, who had been writing on woman suffrage for the paper, happened to be in Bethlehem, N. H., when an accident disabled Governor Howard of Rhode Island, who was stopping there. She wrote about this and followed it with a series of letters that did much to increase the popularity of that resort, especially for Rhode Islanders. She also reported the Centennial at Philadelphia for the Journal.

Stories about soldiers appeared in the correspondence from Washington by Mrs. W. W. Brown, and she used the title "Shirley" during the Civil War. Mrs. Susan Stephens Lyon used the signature "Evea" when she described incidents on her trip to Japan. Miss Louise C. Hoppin and Miss Fannie B. Ward have also written letters of travel for the Journal.

Among those who had special appeals to make through the Journal were Mrs. J. K. Barney, who wrote on temperance; Mrs. Emily A. Hall, wife of Dr. Hall, who advocated many reform measures; Mrs. Elizabeth Buffum Chace, who championed the cause of woman suffrage; and her daughter, Mrs. Lily Chace Wyman, who also urged greater freedom for her sex.

The initials "G. P." designated the contributions from Miss Grace Peckham, sister of Mrs. George W. Danielson, while she was studying medicine in New York city, and Miss Fannie Cowing signed the initials "F. C." to her articles. Miss Katherine H. Austin,



an assistant in the Rhode Island Historical Society library, has published poems in the Journal as well as communications on varied subjects, and Mrs. E. W. T. Smith also wrote poetry, but made a specialty of art subjects. One of the most valued women contributors to the Journal has been Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer, who first wrote articles for Mr. Danielson when she was a Providence school teacher, giving special attention to educational and sociological subjects. She was one of the founders of the Rhode Island Woman's Club, and is a member of the Short Story Club, an active organization maintained by the literary women in Providence and vicinity.

The starting of the Sunday edition in 1885 stimulated correspondents, for an attempt was made to bring out more local talent. One of the ablest of the writers who were brought to the front about that time was Esther Bernon Carpenter, late of Wickford, whose "South County Sketches" are still enjoyed by those who turn back the files to read them. They were quaint delineations of country life, often written in colloquial language, and were delightfully fresh and original. The Journal considered them "equal in truth and vividness and strength to any work of the kind ever done in this country." Miss Carpenter soon established a reputation which resulted in contributions to other publications, but her early death cut short what seemed a very promising career. Miss M. E. W. Wardwell contributed society letters from Newport, and her articles in Life afterward became a feature of that paper. Nora Perry, the author who had contributed her early poems to the Journal, became a Boston correspondent whose letters



touched upon a wide range of subjects. She was a Providence woman whose name is most associated in the popular mind with the lines "After the Ball," which she composed. Kate E. Conway of the Boston Pilot also wrote occasionally, as did Katherine Tynan, the Irish poetess.

Some excellent work was done soon after the Sunday Journal started by Miss Mariana M. Bisbee, now Mrs. Tallman. She described resorts easy of access under the title "Pleasant Places in Rhode Island," and her booklet on "Trolley Trips in Rhode Island" was widely circulated. A novel bit of her verse marked the final obliteration of the sheet of water where the Union Station now stands, for she represented an "old cove," who had been an *habitué* of its banks, bidding farewell to the cove. Her poem on the death of Mr. Williams was especially pleasing to his friends.

In order to enrich its literary pages the Journal began reaching out in the early days of the Sunday issue to secure the services of trained writers. Arlo Bates, later professor of English Literature at the Institute of Technology and an author of repute, was engaged to supply a weekly letter from Boston, devoted to art, politics, and literature, and he continued this until succeeded in 1889 by Edward Fuller. Letters about English politics were written by Alex. Paul, the Parliamentary reporter. I. N. Ford, the New York Tribune's London correspondent, also wrote for a time; while Julian Ralph, the fertile writer and energetic traveler, who for several years wrote a weekly letter from New York, prepared special articles for the Journal when visiting foreign countries.

Senator Anthony's interest in national affairs made

the Washington service of the paper particularly strong, but he was not content with sending what he could learn, for he engaged the veteran correspondent Ben. Perley Poore of the Boston Journal to send letters to Providence. He was succeeded by Gen. H. V. Boynton, who afterward had charge of the southern section in the Associated Press. Then the correspondence was taken by Elbridge G. Dunnell, Washington representative of the New York Times. It was Mr. Dunnell who introduced Frederick H. Howland to the Bureau when he took the work in 1894. Mr. Howland continued in that capacity until he went to New York city in 1898 to supplement the work of the Associated Press by special service from that city. He went to the seat of the Boer War in 1900, and not only acted as correspondent for the Journal there but represented the London Daily Mail and London Evening News in the camps of Generals Hunter, Methuen, and Broadwood. On his return he resumed his work as Washington correspondent, and he prepared a volume concerning his experiences in the war. On Mr. Howland's return to the home office in 1903 he was succeeded by Mr. F. L. Merritt.

## CHAPTER VI.

### UNUSUAL TRAITS AND ACTIVITIES.

Charitable and Philanthropic Enterprises Conducted by the Journal.—Large Amounts Contributed in the Civil War.—Relief for Sufferers by Fire and Flood.—The Journal Office Window, Where Lost and Found Articles are Displayed.—Some of the Curiosities it has Contained.—Members of the Famous Journal “Sunday School.”





## UNUSUAL TRAITS AND ACTIVITIES.

Traits of character distinguish the newspaper as they do the individual, and these become conspicuous or seem peculiar when the publication achieves prominence. Some of these distinguishing marks come from the suggestions of editors, while others are developed by local environment, such as the character of the constituency served. One newspaper may attempt to introduce a phonetic method of spelling, while another's specialty may be its death notices, which are elaborated by verse kept in stock for selection by bereaved relations. Bible texts once appeared daily at the head of the editorial page of a New York newspaper, while several prominent journals exclude news from the outside pages, which are filled with advertising, so that they serve as a cover.

Now that a single press association serves nearly all with the same telegraph news, the chance for individuality has been lessened, but peculiarities in local customs and the arrangement of forms continue. Many of these ideas which have been developed in recent years are not strictly connected with the news, but nevertheless most publications have them in one form or another. In this class are methods of raising money for charitable purposes or the inauguration of reform movements, which are too often undertaken for mere advertising purposes.

The Journal has championed many public movements, but it has always been fortunate enough to avoid sus-

picion of self-seeking by the incidental advertising. The paper serves a wealthy and generous community, whose response has followed as a matter of course, so that earnest solicitation has seldom been necessary. No doubt much of the unhesitating confidence in the worthiness of a cause advocated by the Journal and the willingness to intrust money to its care has been due to the fact that Mr. Davis has been interested in every such charity and the knowledge that he would turn over the funds to the proper authorities for distribution. Hence there has been hardly a great disaster in the United States for the past fifty years, calling for citizens to give substantial sympathy to an afflicted community, where an opportunity was not afforded for gifts over the Journal counter. Mutual confidence has grown between the publisher and the reader until the office has come to be regarded as the natural repository of money collected for such objects.

No doubt the exigencies of the Civil War did much to stimulate the habit of giving generously, for dollars and cents seemed trifling when lives were being sacrificed. When the 1st Rhode Island regiment started for the front the proposition to raise \$500 with which to buy extra supplies for the soldiers met with instant response, but this sum was small in comparison with what was required afterwards. After the battles came the call for nursing and medical attendance, so that money literally poured in at the Journal office. For several months the State attempted to provide separately for her own soldiers, and Senator Anthony was kept busy at Washington investigating cases of need. People soon found, however, that the Sanitary Commission was best able to distribute

all the relief funds, and the work was continued through that organization, yet so much was contributed in this State that it was difficult to make an accurate estimate of the amount.

The war with Spain in 1898 afforded an excellent opportunity for Rhode Island to show her patriotism, both in furnishing men and in supplying the needs of the soldiers generally. The State furnished a larger quota than was required, and although the Rhode Island volunteers saw no actual service, they were ready and showed their willingness to take a part in active operations. The Journal co-operated with the authorities in equipping the volunteers and in planning for the repair ship *Vulcan*, which did such notable work under the command of Gardiner C. Sims. When actual hostilities had ended and the army was waiting to be mustered out there came the appeal from officers in Cuba, who declared that their men were likely to be decimated by exposure or disease if longer left on the island. Montauk had hardly been selected for the camp of the convalescent regiments when the work of relief was started from Providence, which proved to be the most available point from which to reach the end of Long Island by water, since New York city was hampered by poor railroad facilities and the failure to provide other means of transportation. None of the Rhode Island volunteers were at Montauk, but relief expeditions were at once started from here with supplies for the sick and needy, which were provided liberally in response to suggestions given by the Journal. The towboat *Gaspee* was chartered and representatives of the Journal used it to convey two cargoes of supplies and



delicacies, which were distributed to the regiments most in need of them. An attempt was made to reach the most remote camps, which were being neglected, and to feed the regulars for whom there were no home organizations to provide. The newspaper had from the first co-operated with the Rhode Island Sanitary and Relief Association, but the trips of the Gaspee were made under its own direction, while the provisions carried were personally distributed by its own representatives.

The Gaspee had hardly touched the Montauk dock when an immediate opportunity for relief presented itself. For in the confusion an Illinois regiment had been ordered out to take a special train for home, which could not be reached for twenty-four hours. In the meantime the soldiers were suffering from hunger and the heat, which prostrated many in their enfeebled condition. Similar aid was rendered the members of the 7th and 17th United States Infantry, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Cavalry, and a battalion of the colored 9th Cavalry. A second expedition was necessary, and over \$3,000 was distributed by the Journal in money, food, and clothing. It had also aided in fitting out the thirteen expeditions that went from Providence.

A suggestion was made in November, 1898, that the Rhode Island boys in camp ought to have a turkey dinner on Thanksgiving Day, and the appeal was hardly published before the money was subscribed. Horace Vose, who has annually made a special gift of a turkey to grace the White House table on this occasion, was selected to superintend the arrangements, and the turkeys were forwarded to South Carolina, that the boys might enjoy a home dinner.



Wars have not monopolized the philanthropy of Providence citizens, who have continually used the paper as a means of raising money and distributing it. The Civil War had hardly ended when an opportunity came for organized charity to relieve the destitution of a New England city. A fire-cracker started a conflagration in July, 1866, which destroyed over \$10,000,000 worth of property at Portland, Me., and reduced one third of the city to ashes. Within three days a meeting of Providence citizens was called and the Mayor of Portland was authorized to draw on Providence for \$10,000, that amount being subscribed at once. A Providence man was sent to investigate personally the situation in Portland, and money gifts were followed by clothing and supplies.

When Chicago was swept by fire in October, 1871, the experiences of 1866 were repeated, except that the giving was more prompt and on a much larger scale. Over \$55,374 was then collected in Providence and vicinity for the sufferers by that fire, and of that \$13,265, or by far the largest amount by any single agency, was taken over the Journal counter and passed through the hands of Mr. Davis. In addition to this, and at the same time, the Journal collected \$6,380 for the relief of sufferers by forest fires in Wisconsin and Michigan.

The Mill river disaster in May, 1874, resulting from a broken dam in western Massachusetts, caused death and suffering. Rev. C. A. Staples announced in the Journal that he would take charge of funds for relief work, and \$700 was given him to distribute there. When the Johnstown flood devastated the Conemaugh valley a call was made for subscriptions, and \$3,000 of the amount

raised in Providence for the Pennsylvania city came through the Journal office. Similar aid has been rendered after Mississippi floods, and for those affected by the Charleston earthquake, the Wallingford Ct., tornado, the Porto Rican hurricane in 1899, and the yellow fever epidemics.

In local enterprises the Journal has been ready to give its aid in raising money for such objects as the Soldiers' and Sailors', the Doyle and the Burnside monuments. During the hard times in the winter of 1893-94 the energies of charitably disposed people were taxed to devise plans for affording relief. The Journal co-operated with the citizens' committee which found employment for the able-bodied men in the work of grading land about Orms street. It was the result of the newspaper's suggestion that a supply kitchen association was formed to work with the other agencies in dispensing food to the hungry.

As far back as 1868 the Journal aided materially in the work of raising money for the Rhode Island Hospital and it has always been ready since that time to assist in appeals for contributions to the institution. The recent provision for consumptives in outdoor camps has been made possible by interest in the work, following reports of contributions in the paper. Besides rendering aid to institutions and to communities, there have been numerous instances of individual relief in the charities of the Journal, such as the fund for the widow of a fireman killed on the street by a fall from a ladder.

When the suggestion was made that a subscription be started by school children to buy the elephant "Baby Roger" for Roger Williams Park, the purpose was to

secure as many givers as possible for the object; hence it was necessary to refuse large sums offered to complete the needed amount. The enterprise was started in the spring of 1893, and in a few weeks the \$1,500 needed was subscribed by 2,300 children, who made their deposits in the Journal office. This addition to the Zoo was formally presented to the park commission by the child who first gave money for the object, and over 30,000 people, many of them children, witnessed the event. The story of "Baby Roger" and his acquirement by the city was afterward printed in pamphlet form, together with some of the verse inspired by the circumstances of the gift, which had excited such great interest.

Another of the activities of the Journal, which it has cultivated to an unusual extent, has been the aid rendered in recovering lost articles and restoring them to their owners. This has been done largely through the display window, which has been an institution used to exhibit stray articles as well as for a museum of curiosities brought in by people who considered them unusual.

Ordinarily owners are found through advertisements, though the parcel found in the street may be taken to the police or that left in a car turned over to the railroad office. But it has been long the custom in Providence to deposit such things in the Journal window, where the loser looks before he consults the police. The result of this habit has been that no less than a bushel of stray keys picked up on the street have been left there at one time or another, and, as the unidentified ones have been kept, there are many calls from those who would fit locks. Keys taken inadvertently from hotels or the staterooms of steamboats



have been repeatedly returned, while detective agencies have been notified of the recovery of identification badges.

But lost articles have formed a small part of the collection in the Journal office window, for monstrosities of all sorts have been added to the collection—from the double-yolked egg to the fantastic figure formed by interlacing branches of a tree. Curiously shaped wasp nests have given rise to intimations that they typified conditions prevailing in the editorial room, Spiritualists have shown cloth which they believed had been woven by unseen hands, while almost every year there is a crop of raspberries in October, suggesting June to the shivering spectators. Articles exhibited in the Journal window have sometimes been considered worthy of place in a permanent museum after they have been displayed there for a time.

The objects seen in the counting-room window have often been those about which some controversy has arisen, as when the wonderful McNally hen reposed there after it had been stuffed for preservation in the Park Museum. It was never scientifically proved that she laid twenty-nine eggs in a day, but she had been visited when alive by men interested in biology who had to admit that she was abnormally fertile. Whatever may have been the doubts of the incredulous, Mrs. McNally certainly believed that it was a wonderful hen; and as for the rest of the community, it took sides on the question, which seemed to be of absorbing interest for some time.

In dealing with incidents connected with publishing the Journal it is worthy of record that the method of furnishing lunches to its employees led to the institution of the



night lunch wagon, now such a familiar sight in cities all over the country. When Walter Scott was peddling fruit on Providence streets in 1854 it was suggested to him that there was a chance of good business in furnishing lunches to newspaper workers at night, when the eating houses were usually closed. So he began in 1858 regularly to take a lunch basket at night to the office. He also found employment there as a spare hand in the press room, so that he could occupy his time in the interval between the lunches of his customers; and his services were especially welcome during the Civil War, when men were scarce.

When the Journal office was moved from the Washington building to the Barton block in 1871 Mr. Scott found that increasing business had rendered his push cart inadequate for lunches; so he covered an old express wagon, in which he kept his coffee hot and from which he dispensed his eatables. For sixteen years the lunch wagon served the Journal men regularly.

But Mr. Scott did not long monopolize the business, for Ruel B. Jones, a policeman stationed on that beat, had watched him deal out sandwiches and concluded that it must be profitable. So he adopted the idea, building a wagon in which his customers could stand while they enjoyed their lunch. Samuel M. Jones, a nephew of the officer, still further expanded the idea, and after an experience in Worcester he went to Springfield, where he is still located. Since then the business has grown and few people know that the idea originated with the man who furnished the first night lunches to employees on the Journal.

For nearly twenty years readers of the Journal have seen the odd title "Northwest Corner" appearing daily over the jokes printed in the upper left-hand corner of an inside page. A moment's reflection has probably explained the meaning of this heading to most of them, and they understand that the name was suggested by the location, since that would be the point of the compass were the newspaper page a map. The position of the joke column in the Journal may have been facetiously referred to as "The Northwest Corner" before 1885, but it was not until October of that year that it was formally named. The origin of the name is explained by Rev. W. F. B. Jackson, who tells how he suggested it to John W. Barney one night when the question of a suitable title came up. He told Mr. Barney that Mrs. Jackson had been calling the paragraphs by that name, and the heading was soon after adopted by the paper.

It is interesting, in connection with these jokes, that Mr. Barney, who selected them, did his work so well that the change was noticed when he left the paper. When Charles A. Dana of the New York Sun met the Journal publisher one day he asked him if the man who had been selecting the jokes was still doing the work. When informed that he had left, Mr. Dana said that he had noticed a change, adding that he had always read the column, as he regarded it as one of the best collections of American wit.

Perhaps the most notable feature in the history of the Journal was the attraction which drew to the office so many conspicuous Rhode Island public men, who were first interested by their friendship for Senator Anthony

and were afterward held together through their intimacy with Mr. Danielson. The influence of this institution has already been described in the story of Senator Anthony's life, but the character of the gatherings can be better understood by a mention of the names of members of that distinguished company. As the Journal represented the literary circle of the State, its members first took this opportunity for a social interchange of ideas on general subjects. As many of them were lawyers, including the ablest representatives of the bar, legal questions were discussed; and as these people shaped the government of the State, politics followed naturally, until the gatherings became more political in character. Hardly any one of them was invited, but each man learned very soon whether he was welcome, and he then dropped in Sunday mornings without formality, stopping at the office on the way home from church, if he had attended religious services.

Not many of those who long participated in these meetings are now living, but the traditions that have been handed down to their sons or to the younger men, who would naturally have succeeded to membership had the "classes" been continued, would form a notable chapter in the history of the State. First there was the famous group of Senator Anthony's personal friends, who had enjoyed his hospitality, eaten clams with him, and together sipped the famous "dark brandy"—the nectar that Daniel Smith served at his shore resort "palace."

The life of the party was William P. Blodget, the insurance agent, who had a well-deserved reputation as a wit and raconteur. Such was his fame as "a prince of



good fellows" that some of the incidents associated with his name are no doubt apocryphal, but there are enough well-authenticated stories to fill a volume. Lawyers remember how Mr. Blodget deceived the innocent French consul, who attempted to raise money in Providence for an international steamship line. Mr. Blodget pretended to subscribe liberally, but the pledge was found to be meaningless, and the consul ever afterward declared that "Monsieur Blaujais" was a "humping bug." A Hebrew who had been paid twice for losses by the burning of his store applied a third time for insurance, but was gravely informed by Mr. Blodget that the book of Hebrews was closed.

James M. Clarke was a comrade especially intimate with Senator Anthony, and a fellow member in the old Rhode Island Club. He was a handsome man, but was reputed to be averse to arduous work. When chided for this love of ease, and urged to exert himself more, Mr. Clarke would point to his pipe-bowl on the table, which he had attached to a stem several feet long, and reply "I have exercise enough walking over to fill that with tobacco." The office of City Solicitor was created for him, and he filled it for a long period. He also served as Register in Bankruptcy, but when a place on the United States Circuit bench was offered him he declined it.

Charles Hart, who long survived his companions, was a member of this inner circle—Hart with the melodious and persuasive voice that could convince juries when elaborate expositions of the law failed.

N. F. Dixon, 2nd, who was always "Nate" to Senator Anthony, had been his classmate at Brown and was his





MEMBERS OF THE FAMOUS JOURNAL SUNDAY SCHOOL.  
WILLIAM P. BLODGETT, ABRAHAM PAYNE,



intimate friend ever afterward. When Mr. Dixon was candidate for United States Senator Gen. Burnside was put forward for the place by those who feared that Mr. Dixon would be too easily influenced by Mr. Anthony. For a time people expected that the relations between Mr. Anthony and Gen. Burnside might be strained by the contest, but when the General won the cordial relations between the two were continued, and it was found that an attempt to discover a colleague who would be ready to oppose the senior Senator had been vain.

Two other close friends of the Senator were Judge Walter S. Burges and Stephen Harris, the latter a confidant in business as well as in politics. Judge Burges was a Democrat, but difference in party belief was never allowed to disturb the serenity of the meetings. He was notable in physique, kind-hearted, and shrewd in business relations.

George Rivers, the famous wit, did not belong to the "class" long after the beginning of the half-century, but when he was on hand he was generally the centre of the gathering. Samuel Ames, the Chief Justice, who had been a collaborator in the familiar Dorriad verse with Mr. Rivers, Senator Anthony, and others, was one of the company who gave the "Sunday School" its early reputation, for he could intelligently discuss most questions of literature, law, or theology. Courteous in manner, Judge Ames walked with an elastic step, was careful in dress, and somewhat intolerant of a dull person.

Judge Sylvester Shearman of Wickford was a welcome guest at the office, where his eccentricities were enjoyed and his good stories added much to the zest of the meet-

ings. He was not always particular to observe the proprieties of the court, and would usually go to members of the bar to notify them when their cases were likely to be called. Before the new Court House was ready the sessions were held in different halls, and sometimes in law offices. On one occasion when it was held in the old Armory on Benefit street a lawyer asked the judge how soon it was likely to adjourn. He replied that as he understood that 2,000 pounds of gunpowder were stored in the cellar "the court may rise any moment."

A familiar face in the company was that of Judge Elisha R. Potter, smooth-shaven and refined, and his conversation betrayed a close knowledge of State affairs which he had learned from his father, once its leading politician. Equally conspicuous was the pompadour hair that crowned the somewhat stern features of Judge John P. Knowles, who retired from active practice to enjoy a place on the Shell Fish Commission, only to return to the law again when the office of United States District Judge was offered him.

Judge Thomas Durfee, known to his associates as "Tom," is best remembered as a jurist, but he distinguished himself as an orator on the 250th anniversary of the founding of the city. Another judge who was accustomed to drop in occasionally was George A. Brayton, uncle of Charles R. Brayton.

The Governors who enjoyed the confidence of the Journal included Henry Howard, one of the surviving members of the coterie, who will perhaps be better remembered as a contributor over the familiar signature "H. H." Gen. Burnside made himself at home, especially after



his distinguished services in the war, but military subjects were always his specialty in conversation. That refined and accomplished gentleman, Governor W. W. Hoppin, often called and exchanged ideas with others, while in the early days Governor Sprague used to call. Lieutenant Governor Samuel G. Arnold, the historian, also attended the sessions occasionally. Henry Lippitt, Governor and father of another Governor, had his share in deliberations about conditions in the State.

James F. Simmons, the Johnston cotton manufacturer, was considered an expert on the tariff question when he was a member of the Senate, and he was often appealed to for facts or opinions about the effect of protection.

Of the Providence mayors, Amos C. Barstow was too ardent a Prohibitionist to spend much time in the more liberal company, but he found that the information he obtained at the Journal office was useful. Mayor Thomas A. Doyle did not always find it congenial among people who had been attacking his municipal plans, but he wanted to know what was going on and this was the place to learn it.

Congressman Thomas A. Jenckes was usually a listener when he called at the office, although he sometimes roused himself from his fits of silence, which he spent gazing out of the window. While in Washington he lived with Senator Anthony, and the two men agreed on almost everything but food, for the Congressman liked plain living, while the Senator employed a chef. According to a guest who took breakfast with them one morning, Mr. Anthony asked Mr. Jenckes what he would have to eat. "I'll try a boiled egg with the shell on," he replied,

"I don't believe your French cook can get inside of that." But Mr. Jenckes did not lack for words when he became interested, and he sometimes proved a charming conversationalist. One of the most popular members of the "Sunday School" was Alfred Anthony, known as "Uncle Alfred," who prided himself on the fact that he had been trained as a tanner, a trade Gen. Grant followed. The Senator often received a call from his brother Charles, especially when the latter was collector of the port.

It was a coincidence that the two active medical men who took part in the conferences were both homeopaths; so they could join forces when the school of practice was attacked. Both Dr. J. J. DeWolf and Dr. A. H. Okie were prominent in the profession at the time.

The eccentricities of Ward Cowing are still remembered, and his manner of uttering positive statements as he tottered around the room, thumping his cane on the floor. Charles Sabin stuttered badly, and the frantic movements of his elbows were sometimes a picturesque feature of the conferences when he tried to address them. Wingate Hayes, the District Attorney, found it difficult to overcome his sensitiveness, but when afterward he had a prominent part in municipal matters as member of the City Council he seemed to grow more communicative.

Of course "Eph" Jackson and Henry W. Gardner were frequenters of the office when they were postmasters of Providence, and Mr. Jackson is remembered as a particularly voluble talker.

An occasional visitor during his prosperous days was Darius Sessions, proprietor of a distillery. His experience with Mayor Barstow was a topic for many a dis-

cussion at such a gathering, for an attempt was made to confine him in the Dexter Asylum and he sued to recover damages. The trouble resulted from his attempt to secure a pass to inspect the asylum, when Mayor Barstow added an order to the superintendent to keep him there, after he had enjoyed the hospitality of the place.

Among the strictly literary men who were accustomed to stop in at the Journal office were Albert C. Greene, the author of "Old Grimes," James P. Dunwell, editor of the General Advertiser, and Robert Sherman of Pawtucket. The last named was once United States Marshal, and he was always considered one of the best of story tellers.

Dr. Samuel Boyd Tobey was a Quaker, who walked into the office wearing black clothes cut in the garb of the society, while he did not hesitate to use the prescribed form of the pronouns "thee" and "thou." He had retired from medical practice, and then was managing the Moses B. Jenkins estate.

One of the most agreeable visitors was John Oldfield, an Englishman, who had made gardening a profitable business. The mention of the name of Christopher Robinson of Woonsocket brings up Know Nothing days, and the Sons of Malta, in which he was so active. The latter organization was once prosperous in Providence, and many prominent citizens joined in the ridiculous mysteries attending the order.

The list of lawyers who might be found there included City Solicitor Charles H. Parkhurst, Wilkins Updike and his sons Cæsar and Walter, Hon. William H. Potter, who is still living at Kingston; Jonah Titus, the eccentric



Scituate lawyer and Democrat; James M. Ripley, who is still active, and his partner, the late Mr. B. F. Thurston, who was eminent in patent litigation.

Thomas Nixon, the veteran railroad man, who still lives to recall the famous gatherings, remembers that Samuel M. Noyes was one of the members. Mr. Noyes had been a sea captain and dealer in foreign merchandise, and the cigarettes he smoked were the first ever seen by many of those present.

Henry L. Fairbrother of Pawtucket was a welcome visitor, for he was particularly witty and quick at repartee. When he was asked who was the greatest man in Pawtucket he said: "Sayles is the greatest man there nights, I am there, myself, in the daytime."

Other *habitués* of the editorial rooms have been Edwin C. Mauran, Adjutant General during the Civil War; Rufus Waterman, the manufacturer; William R. Watson, State Auditor; Thomas Jackson and Samuel B. Wheaton, the merchants; Geo. F. Wilson, one of the founders of the Rumford Chemical Works; Thomas P. I. Goddard, Dr. Isaac Hartshorn, the rubber manufacturer, and Jas. H. Coggeshall, United States Marshal. Augustus Hoppin, cousin of the Governor, was an artist and traveler, and Allen O. Peck, an insurance man. William B. Greene, known as "Shoe Bill" Greene, to distinguish him from others of the same name, was a friend of Senator Anthony, and frequently visited the office with his companions. There were at least four W. H. Greene's in town, and the remaining three were distinguished as "Grocer Bill," "Lawyer Bill," and "Liquor Bill," according to their occupations.



On the death of Senator Anthony, the "Sunday School" sessions lost their interest to many and the attendance naturally decreased, for Mr. Danielson was dead and there was no successor left to either of these leaders. Finally the members of the historic institution straggled down to the office one morning to find the editorial room locked. The post office was as convenient as any place to adjourn to, and for a few months an attempt was made to continue the sessions there, but with a Democratic postmaster, the Republican assistant could not hope to rally Republicans there long; so the Journal "Sunday School" passed into history.

The custom of distributing turkeys among the employees at Thanksgiving time dates back to 1854, when Samuel McCoy was called on to procure these essentials for the holiday. This distribution has been continued each year since that time, and now one hundred and seventy-five employees are provided for in this way. Mr. Davis takes a lively interest in the selection and distribution of the Thanksgiving turkeys, personally attending to the matter. But this is only one of the ways he shows his interest in the employees. When the coal strike in 1902 caused hardship to those who could not secure fuel, Mr. Davis was able to secure some firewood early in the season, and this he apportioned among the employees who could not secure fuel elsewhere at any price.

Another custom prevailing in the Journal office has been the insurance of employees against sickness and death by a co-operative company in the office. In this all departments participated, from the editors to the reporters, as well as those engaged in the mechanical depart-

ment. Recently the plan was made more of a Journal company matter by the management offering to pay one-half the annual premium provided the insurance was transferred to a regular company engaged in that business. While this did away with the necessity of the original benefit organization, it broadened the opportunity of those seeking such protection and has served as another evidence of the interest of the management in the welfare of the employees.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE JOURNAL'S CARRIERS.

Many Well-Known Business Men who Served in that Capacity when Boys.—Mr. Davis's Interest in the Occupation which he first Undertook when he came on the Journal.—Some Reminiscences by the older "Boys."—The New Year's Addresses.





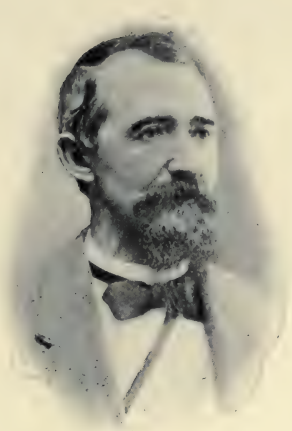
## THE JOURNAL'S CARRIERS.

Undoubtedly the interest which Mr. Davis takes in the carriers is augmented by the fact that his first work for the Journal fifty years ago was as a carrier. Carriers' positions were much sought after in those days, and the competition for places made it possible for the publishers to select some of the brightest boys, many of whom represented excellent families. When the route was secured the lads endured a training that proved valuable later in life; so most of them developed into prosperous citizens, especially if they profited by the lessons in self-reliance, industry, and punctuality that were essentials to success in delivering papers. Persons have been accustomed to praise mail carriers and have been glad to contribute to the Christmas gifts for these public servants, but few of them appreciate the efforts of the boys who have to start out before breakfast and to trot about long before dawn to distribute the morning papers in season to attend their regular school duties, which most parents consider give abundant occupation to their sons at this period of their growth.

When daily papers were first issued and boys were installed in the new business of delivering copies to customers along city routes, people were more appreciative of their efforts and usually rewarded them at least once a year, when reminded at New Year's of their debt to the messengers who had braved all conditions of weather to leave the record of the previous day's news on their door-

steps in season for perusal at breakfast. From this sense of obligation to the carrier boys started the custom of distributing a New Year's address as a hint that something was expected as extra reward for service rendered. Thus after the papers had been delivered on January 1 the boys were accustomed to go over their routes again and to leave each customer a sheet on which verses written for the occasion by some friend of the carriers were printed. The subscriber knew what this meant, and his response was a fee that varied in size from five cents to one dollar, so that boys with large routes often collected as much as fifty dollars on a New Year's morning. If the day was stormy or the route had been made difficult by a fresh fall of snow, the pluck of the boy in getting about promptly before the paths were trodden was likely to be rewarded generously.

The carriers were obliged to fold their own papers then, and they also had to wrap them in covers where customers demanded this protection; so the task of preparation was considerable, especially as they had to wait for production from slow presses, which often broke down entirely. In order to be prepared for such chances of delay the boys usually gathered in the dingy old press room at least half an hour before they could be sure of receiving their allotment of papers. As they were supplied in the order of their arrival, it finally became the custom for the first boy who arrived to claim the best place in the room for folding his papers by laying his carrier bag on the particular table he wished to appropriate. There would then be a chance for a nap while waiting, but it was not often possible to preserve quiet



FORMER JOURNAL EMPLOYEES.

I. BOWERS SLADE.

CHARLES J. WHEELER.

JOSEPH BUCKLIN.





among such a crowd of youngsters.<sup>1</sup> When the carrier boys reached the office before the pressman had started the edition there was an opportunity for mischief that the stern "Joe" Bucklin had difficulty in repressing. Bucklin had charge of the delivery of papers by mail or carrier, and he was the target for pranks that only active boys could devise. He would have his wrappers addressed for the mail and find afterward that the paste he had to apply in such haste lacked sufficient adhesive power to seal them, as some insoluble powder had been substituted for flour in its preparation. But it was in trying to smuggle an extra copy of the Journal that the boys exercised their ingenuity, no doubt being challenged by Mr. Bucklin's care lest an additional copy should be taken by the carriers when they were allowed only one for personal use.

The patient John Holliday, who turned the wheel which furnished power for the old Adams press, also had his share of troubles made by the enthusiastic boys hovering about the room. He was accustomed to change his trousers in preparation for the grimy work, and occasionally the wet sponge used in locking up the forms was slipped into the seat of his working clothes as he drew them on, much to his embarrassment. Those were the days of heavy boots, and to relieve his feet Holliday donned an old pair of slippers as he mounted the platform on which he stood to "grind" off the edition. He was surprised one morning to find the slippers carefully laid out for him, and he was inclined to be gratified by the attention until he tried to shift his feet and was nearly thrown over the fly wheel, for they were immovable. The slippers

had been carefully tacked to the floor. Holliday would doze at his monotonous work in turning the crank, until awakened by some such disturbance as a volley of paper wads thrown by the carriers.

Samuel S. Wilson, who had served an apprenticeship with Mr. Miller, one of the founders of the Journal, had returned from New Bedford in the 50's and was managing the old Adams press when young Davis began work as a carrier. Mr. Wilson's exemplary habits, no doubt, caused merriment among the more convivial members of the craft at the time, but he has outlived nearly all his early associates, and for this long life he gives due credit to his temperance principles. But he was regarded by the boys as a stern moralist, surrounded by printers with less scruples about indulgence. He often related the story of the lesson in total abstinence he received when a lad participating in the welcome Providence gave to Gen. Lafayette. Light wines had been furnished by the members of a militia company, and he drank freely, not realizing their power to befog the brain, until he found himself reeling. He then started in alarm for his home, where his disgusted mother promptly put him to bed. Undoubtedly other means were employed to enforce the lesson, besides the ordinary restoratives, when he awoke, for he always said that the incident made a great impression on him. Mr. Wilson did not extend his prejudices against conviviality to theatre-going, for one of the carriers remembers that his first theatre ticket came from the veteran pressman, and he still recalls the scenes in the drama which he watched from a twenty-five-cent seat in the gallery.

It is the memory of relations with the pressman and the superintendent of the carriers that the boys preserve most distinctly in after years, but incidents on their routes after they left the office also made their impressions. Once out on the street, the responsibility to the subscriber succeeded any anxiety about complying with the rules in the office. It is this feature of accountability to the customer as well as to employer that makes a careless boy shrink from work where he is liable to be criticised by them both. Few subscribers have receptacles for their papers, and when it is only necessary to drop the sheet on the step or piazza of the house complaints about missing Journals are frequent. Sometimes the householder has insisted that the door-bell should be rung each morning, so that an early riser might go out in time to save his paper. One Journal carrier was annoyed by complaints from a very exacting customer that he failed to receive his paper, and he was asked always to ring the bell. This request was easily complied with, for the house was not reached until the rising hour. One week the boy learned that the customer's son was very ill; so for several days he tried to ring the bell "softly," and when he saw crape on the door he omitted the ringing entirely. The next day he was surprised to learn that the subscriber had complained because he failed to ring the bell as he had requested, and a reprimand was written in the book which the carriers were expected to examine each morning before they started out. Often an employer would watch the career of the boy who brought the paper, with the idea of giving him a lift when the opportunity was afforded. Thus many a messenger has

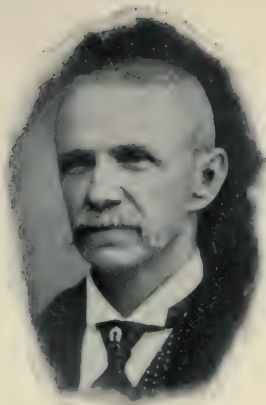


been unexpectedly rewarded by an appreciative subscriber whom he had pleased by his fidelity to duty.

The position of the carrier, which is important in every newspaper office, has had especial attention from the Journal in the care used to select the boys for routes and in the interest taken afterward concerning their welfare. The desire to undertake the work shows an interest in the paper by the boy or his family. If the paper had been a fixture in the home, interest in its daily issues was increased when the son began to deliver it and a sense of proprietorship was established. As a rule the boys are keen critics of the paper when they glance over the headlines while waiting their turn in the distribution from the press. The sense of proprietorship in the boy leads him to defend the policy of the paper or condone its shortcomings. He considers himself as much a Journal man as any other employee, and the chances are that he will show a reporter's enthusiasm in getting the first or the best story of an event which comes his way.

But the carrier's functions are growing more limited owing to the development of the business of the newsdealer, who is doing the work that formerly fell to the publisher. The evening editions of papers are now handled almost exclusively by newsdealers, for only six boys are employed by the Journal Company to deliver Bulletins to subscribers, while the morning Journal, with a smaller circulation, requires thirty-two carriers. Whether the increase of mail facilities and the perfection of news agencies may make it profitable for the publishers to dispense entirely with their carriers is not yet clear, but the newsboy remains a part of the newspaper





THE JOURNAL CARRIERS.

WILLIAM D. MARTIN,



office to-day. Comparisons with the character of the boys who formerly served in this capacity with those who do the work to-day lead only to the conclusion that self-reliant boys still seek this method of earning their clothes or even helping pay family expenses.

It was when help was needed in the counting room in 1856 that young Davis, who had established a reputation for punctuality and method as a carrier, was taken into the office of the Journal, where Charles J. Wheeler had long presided alone. He was a rosy-cheeked lad then, and was considered especially promising. Soon he was put in charge of the carrier force, with whose work he was so familiar. In the fifty years that have followed the sympathy which Mr. Davis formed for his associate carriers has been extended so as to include a small army of men who have come into the service of the Journal in this capacity and are now filling positions of trust in the world. To Mr. Davis they all continue to be "Journal boys" and as such they are affectionately remembered, so that they never need introductions when they call to renew old acquaintance. In no way does his memory so conspicuously assert itself as in recalling the names of former carriers or in following their careers after leaving the office. This is not merely mechanical recollection, as many a carrier can testify, but a genuine concern in their welfare that may be shown by some favor extended in business, and certainly by a friendly interest that counts them all members in a growing family. The list of representative men who as boys trudged the streets carrying bags loaded with newspapers would be a

long one, for almost every lad had at least an ambition to do such work and many secured the opportunity.

To go back of the service of Mr. Davis as a carrier would recall names of men with whom he has not been associated, but such members of the printer's trade as Samuel S. Wilson still live and keep alive traditions of newspaper offices that are constantly being compared with modern conditions. He lived in the home of "honest" John Miller, to whom he was apprenticed, and his duties included the care of the Miller baby besides the regular chores. While not a carrier himself, Mr. Wilson came in contact with the boys who had the first routes established by the Journal, and his experience with Benjamin C. Simmons, one of that number, is one of the traditions of the office. Wilson lived where the Rhode Island Historical Society building now stands, and one night he was called into the dormitory across the street by a Brown student, who asked him to keep the Commencement illuminations going in his window. Wilson soon tired of his job, and, deciding to go home, he threw out the board holding the candles and sent the chair after it. Simmons was passing under the window with his bundle of papers, and the chair struck him on the head, greatly frightening Mr. Wilson, who did not learn until sometime afterward whom he had injured. Fortunately the injuries did not prove serious, and Mr. Simmons lived long to enjoy the distinction of having carried copies of the first issue of the Journal.

John M. Rounds seems to deserve the credit of being the oldest living Journal carrier to-day, for he had routes back in 1833. The papers were delivered to him from



the old Whipple building on College street, and Mr. Rounds remembers how the forms on the Adams press were inked by John Mellen, while John Ellsworth fed the machine as it ground out the edition at the rate of eight hundred impressions per hour. Mr. Rounds received only \$1.25 a week for his services as carrier, and the collections from New Year's addresses did not add much to this sum.

Of those who did business with the Journal as carriers when the office was in the Washington building, Charles E. Gorman, the lawyer, is perhaps the oldest, for he began when only six years old to work for his father, who had a newsroom at Turk's Head. One night he was returning from school when he was offered five papers and told he might keep the profits if he could sell them. He was so pleased with the profits that he wanted to continue the work, and his father installed him as a regular carrier. His first connection with the Journal office was the delivery to Senator Anthony each day of the Boston and New York newspapers as soon as they arrived in Providence. The appearance of Mr. Anthony and the atmosphere of the editorial room made a great impression on the lad; and although the two men differed politically, as Mr. Gorman grew to manhood, the lawyer always entertained the greatest respect for the man who wielded such an influence.

Just before the period of Mr. Davis's service for the paper there were seven carriers on the force, of whom four represented families that retained routes for several years, passing them down to different members. All four Randolph boys handled the paper—Richmond Kidder,

Col. George E., John, and Peyton H.—all of them soldiers in the Civil War. Col. George E. Randolph is living in Denver, Col., while John is associated with R. L. Greene on Washington street. When John Randolph delivered his papers in the vicinity of the Dexter Asylum on the East side only a few scattering houses had been built near that institution; but he has reason to remember two of these, for it required a long walk to reach the homes of John Stimson on Angell street and of Charles F. Tillinghast on the corner of Angell and Hope streets.

Of the thirteen Bucklin children born in the old homestead on Arnold street, four succeeded in securing employment in the Journal office, and Joseph H. Bucklin remained there many years after giving up his route, so that his connection with the paper covered about forty years. After a considerable interval John C. and James T. P. followed Joseph, and their cousin, F. Augustus Bucklin, joined the force. J. T. P. Bucklin, who was recently harbor master, remembers the trick the boys played on his brother "Joe," whom even the ties of relationship did not protect from attacks by his younger brothers. On the route which James had along South Main street there then stood some of the most substantial residences in the city as well as leading business buildings, and Gen. Greene, Zachariah Tucker, and J. H. Ormsbee were among his customers. The snowbanks of those days seem to him higher than any that have gathered since, and he has vivid recollections of plowing through unbroken streets amid drifts that surmounted cowhide boots and soaked the feet, unprotected by rubbers. F. Augustus Bucklin had the route along Benefit street,



THE JOURNAL CARRIERS.

REV. C. C. CRAGIN.





and he had to deliver papers to three of the four houses then standing on Governor street. His customers included the Spragues, the Goddards, and Judge Ames; so the opportunities for New Year's collections were the envy of other carrier boys. The opportunity of mounting the steps or entering the grounds did not usually give the carriers the privilege of eating fruit found in door-yards, but Mr. Bucklin remembers one of the subscribers with gratitude to-day, for this man told him to help himself to all the pears he could get. The dainties the carriers would bring to the office for Christmas breakfasts, to be devoured before dawn in the dingy press room, and the hilarity attending these basket picnics are among the pleasant memories of those days which Mr. Bucklin still treasures.

Three of the Earle brothers whose name is associated with the Earle & Prew express business were once carriers of the Journal, and Charles R. Earle gives the following account of their experience: "My eldest brother, John D. Earle, had the South Main street route after S. T. Browne left it to enter the Navy. My brother William H. Earle came on in 1857, and I succeeded him on the North Main street route, taking in the vicinity of Canal, Smith, Charles, and Orms streets. I had about fifty-five subscribers on this route, and the last paper was left at the old State Prison. In the latter part of 1859 I left the route in the care of Henry Allen, a cousin of Dr. Allen, but I resumed the work in 1862. The first person to greet me with a 'good morning' was Job Winsor, an eccentric man, who will be remembered as the exhibitor of a whale as a curiosity. I often encountered

'Janey,' the colored man, who was always looking for a job (at least the inscription on his wagon would indicate that). On State street Capt. Joslin would be watching for me, and if the morning was cold he would generally urge me to come in and drink something warm. Mr. Davis was substitute for Joseph Bucklin when he was absent. We would make it warm for Bucklin when the press broke down, and I remember that at one time this occurred quite often. Sometimes he lost his temper over our jokes, and that was just what the boys wanted. He would sometimes threaten to discharge us all, but the next morning he would greet us very cordially. Mr Davis was a young man in the counting room, and always paid us when it was time to call for our money. The boys used to look forward to New Year's, and Mr. Bucklin was always very good to see that our addresses were written in time. The people for whom I left the Journal were generally more liberal than they were on some of the routes. I enjoyed getting up in the morning and also the pleasure of carrying the Journal. We used to have heavy snowstorms, and I remember seeing drifts from six to eight feet deep on South Main street as well as along my route."

Asa F. Bosworth was the eldest of three brothers who took routes, and when he began in 1862 he had to pass among the neglected stones of the old Proprietor's burial ground, which has since been converted into Hayward Park. This experience was not very pleasant for the lonely lad on dark mornings. His brothers, John C. and Fred S. Bosworth, followed him.

But the most interesting instance of routes long held

in a family was the achievement of the six Baker brothers, who kept up a succession from 1874 to 1896 with either the Journal or the Bulletin, a period of over twenty-two years. The beginning was made by George M. Baker, the metal refiner, who passed his route on through Frank N., E. G. Jr., Harold D., Walter S., and Ernest C. Baker, and the boys not only earned their spending money, but were generally able to save enough to buy the clothes they wore. Similar successions have perhaps been maintained by other families, but the Bakers can safely claim the most unique record in this respect.

Some of the staunchest friends of the paper may be found among those who thus served it in their boyhood, for the favorable impressions made in those early years are lasting, especially when accompanied by such rigorous discipline as early rising. Such a friend of the Journal is Benjamin E. Kinsley, for the father took the paper from the date of its first issue, and the son had it follow him in his travels all over the world. Mr. Kinsley retains vivid recollections of the office on Washington Row and the timid way in which he would climb the dark stairs to the press room, fearing each minute lest he should encounter the form of some drunken man who had crawled in there to sleep off his debauch. The carriers of one period remember an incident in Mr. Kinsley's career which led to his discharge. Mr. Kinsley does not hesitate to relate the story, and, although he says he would not think of repeating such a trick now, the revelation it gave him then of Mr. Anthony's character was some compensation for his punishment. Mr. Kinsley was as active as any in the lively set of carriers, and when



he found the other boys waiting for the pressman one morning, he accepted a "dare" to change the types in the form so as to give a ridiculous turn to an announcement in the advertising column. The consciousness of what he had done weighed on him that day so heavily that he was not surprised later when he saw "Joe" Bucklin enter his father's shoe store with a very grave face. He was escorted into the august presence of Senator Anthony to be examined about the offence, but it did not require much questioning to bring out the facts, for he was then ready to confess it all. "Of course we cannot keep you after you did this," said Mr. Anthony, but in such a kindly way that it seemed to take some of the sting out of the sentence of discharge. Mr. Anthony even asked him to stay and break in his successor; so he thinks that he was treated pretty leniently, when he considers the character of the offence. The late Daniel W. Ladd was also implicated in this scrape and was discharged with Kinsley. The Ladd and Kinsley routes were then consolidated and given to Henry B. Ladd, who is still employed by the paper.

W. D. Martin, who entered the employ of the Lippitts over forty years ago and still works for their company, succeeded Mr. Davis when he gave up his early morning walks for a place in the telegraph office. This route extended up Westminster street toward Cranston, and ended on the hill overlooking Olneyville. It was Mr. Martin who took advantage of the deep snow which reached nearly to his waist one New Year's morning to excite the sympathies of his customers by his prompt delivery under such obstacles and his immediate return



for the distribution of addresses. He remembers that his extra effort was well rewarded. While most of the houses where deliveries were to be made were accessible by well-defined lines of communication, there always seemed to be one or two customers difficult to reach. Thus Martin remembers that he had to cross the Dexter Training Ground to take a single copy to the step of a house on Cranston street.

John Tetlow, head master of the Boston Girls' High and Latin Schools, retains his sympathy for the carriers, for he worked in that capacity when a boy, and he recalls his experiences as follows:

"I fix the date of my service by the date of the appearance of Donati's comet, which in the autumn and winter of 1858 was a conspicuous object in the eastern sky as I left my father's house on Cabot street at 4 o'clock in the morning to take my way to the Journal office. My route began at the bridge, and after leaving the business section of the city included between the river and Weybosset street extended westward to the end of Friendship and Pine streets. I was in attendance at the Providence High School at the time, under the instruction of Edward H. Magill, whom I remember as the best teacher I ever had. As I often carried a school book along with me and prepared a lesson as I delivered the papers along my route, I am afraid that I sometimes in my absent-mindedness missed a subscriber and brought on myself a well-merited rebuke from Joseph Bucklin, who had charge of the room in which we carriers received our papers from the press and folded them before proceeding over our several routes. For, when a subscriber made a com-

plaint at the upstairs office, Mr. Wheeler or Mr. Bucklin entered the complaint, together with a suitable exhortation or objurgation, as the case might be, in a large book which we were expected to consult on our arrival at the folding room every morning. As the rebuke administered to each one was open to the inspection of all, it not seldom happened that a tardy comer would be greeted by his fellow carriers with jeering remarks as he entered the folding room and would learn from their remarks that there was warm language awaiting his inspection in the order book. The carriers whom I best remember as serving at the same time with me were Richard M. Atwater (Brown, 1865), Edward Atwater, William D. Martin, Joshua M. Addeman, and Henry S. Latham—the first three being carriers of the Journal, the fourth of the Post, and the last of the Transcript. We were paid once a week, as I remember that I received every Saturday afternoon from Mr. Wheeler in the upstairs office the munificent sum of \$1.25. I should add, however, that on New Year's day we carried to our patrons a New Year's address, written as I remember in one of the years of my service by Mr. Rodman of the firm of Moulton & Rodman. On that day I used to gather in a harvest, as it seemed to me, for the contributions of the subscribers along my route amounted to from \$15 to \$25. To this day, as the result of my early experience, I feel that there is a bond of sympathy between me and the boy who brings my daily paper; and I regret that I do not have the opportunity to cheer his heart on New Year's day, owing to the lapse of the New Year's addresses, by a

token of my appreciation of the important service he renders me."

Arthur W. Dennis, treasurer of the Elmwood mills, who was a carrier for the Journal in 1860 and 1861, had a route which took him along North Main street, up Charles street and over Smith's hill, and he delivered his last paper at the old State Prison on the other side of the Cove. Mr. Dennis has reason to remember Mr. Davis, who was able to secure for him a clerkship with Adjutant General Mauran in war times.

The Cragin family furnished three brothers to the carrier force, and Rev. Charles Chester Cragin contributes these incidents to the chapter of experiences, writing from Campbell, Cal.:

"I cannot recall when I carried the Providence Journal, but 1861 was a part of the time, for I have a most vivid remembrance of profound feeling when I distributed the paper telling of the firing on Fort Sumter, though I had little thought then that it was the beginning of a war in which I should serve six months as a private and two years as a captain. I carried it also in 1859, for I remember reading in it, as I was folding the papers for my route, that I had taken a second Greek and a second Latin of the president's premiums offered to members of the Freshman class in Brown University. I said to myself, 'I know the result sooner than any other who competed for the prizes,' and I called Richard Atwater's attention to the paragraph. My brother, H. B. Cragin, carried the Journal at one time, for I recall what he said about a turkey dinner, which he attended as a carrier. I also think that my brother, W. P. Cragin, was a carrier for a season.



Another event which stands out vividly in my mind was on a bleak, wintry morning, before daylight, when I was on my way to the Journal office. I was near the foot of Sabin street, and had been running to get warm, when the wind caught me out of breath and forced me to turn around and to stand struggling and gasping for breath, as if my last hour had come. As I recall it, I used to rise at half past three, depending on an alarm clock to awaken me. The first time I heard the clock it was startling, like the crack of doom, and I leaped at once out of bed. But I found afterward that if I lingered awhile before rising it sounded less and less distinctly, until finally I ceased to hear it, till I went back to my first experience and obeyed it instantly. It seemed to me like the voice of conscience, which must be heeded if it would be heard."

Walter B. Harrington, the restaurant proprietor, began carrying papers as assistant to Mr. Tetlow, and received only fifty cents a week for this work; but he says that the boys were glad to assist in that way to secure a regular route, so great was the demand for carrier positions. When the Civil War was precipitated by the attack on Fort Sumter he was notified to be on hand Sunday morning, as the Journal would issue an extra, which he afterward learned was the first of the kind since the Mexican War. Copies sold so well that he cleared nearly \$10 by his day's sale.

Occasionally boys were allowed to sell papers themselves, and William P. Chapin built up a route in this way. Mr. Chapin admits that he was a timid lad and disliked to start out alone on dark mornings; so he strapped a lantern to his belt for company. Early in his career the





THE JOURNAL CARRIERS.

JAMES E. TILLINGHAST.



soldiers were in camp on the Dexter Training Ground, training for the war, and he obtained permission to deliver papers to them each morning. Mr. Chapin was much impressed by the personality of James B. Angell, who always had a pleasant word for any member of the force he met on the office stairs. John A. Arnold, secretary of the Conant Thread Company, was a contemporary of Mr. Chapin, and he built up a route of Bulletin subscribers.

James E. Tillinghast, now secretary of the Equitable Insurance Company, became a carrier in the stirring days of 1863, and continued the work until 1869, being put in charge of the carriers the latter part of the time. He thinks the experience is especially desirable for boys, as they not only profit by the discipline but are brought into contact with business men who may be watching the promising ones with the idea of intrusting them with greater responsibility some day. He believes that he paved the way for his own life work by making the acquaintance of a customer who was an insurance agent. Louis A. Budlong, the carpenter and contractor, succeeded to Mr. Tillinghast's route when the latter took an office position, and Mr. Budlong's brother, Walter Budlong, followed him.

John S. Whitehouse, manager of the Rhode Island Concrete Company, can trace, more directly than Mr. Tillinghast, the choice of his business life to his experiences as a carrier. When Enoch Shattuck died Mr. Whitehouse was asked by the senior Shattuck whether he knew about the business they had conducted, and he soon made an offer to Mr. Whitehouse for him to take the

management. When Mr. Whitehouse asked in surprise how he happened to be selected, Mr. Shattuck reminded him of his carrier days, when he had the run of a jewelry shop with permission to sell Bulletins to employees at their work late in the afternoon. "I noticed," said Mr. Shattuck, "that you quietly attended to business and left the place when you were through, without having disturbed the men, and I concluded that you had some elements of success. "

Dr. E. S. Allen, who was a carrier from 1865 to 1872, appreciates the dangers to which a young boy is exposed by such strenuous work and irregular hours, which interfere with normal sleep. As a rule the carrier boys have about three hours less sleep than their companions, and he remembers that they used to drop off dozing in the hot schoolrooms during the afternoon. "While I appreciate the value of the training," says Dr. Allen, "I would never allow a son of mine to be a carrier, for it is too hard work to be safely undertaken at that tender age. The boys who have to rise at 3 o'clock to begin work on their routes do not have a chance to make up the lost sleep, for it is rare that they retire earlier than their companions. They start out without warm food and usually without proper nourishment, for the lunch hastily eaten generally consists of a doughnut or cracker. Sometimes a subscriber would take pity on a carrier and offer him a cup of hot coffee, but such instances were rare."

One of Dr. Allen's associates as carrier was Franklin A. Snow, who carried the Journal from 1867 to 1872. Mr. Snow has had an interesting experience since, for, after working four years in the office of the city engineer, he went



to South America to help build a railroad around the falls of the river Madeira, 1,600 miles up the Amazon. After two years in Brazil he went to Colorado to make railroad surveys. In the latter part of 1885 he went out for a year as chief engineer for the Dutch contractors at the Culebra cut of the Panama Canal, and also worked for the American Contracting and Dredging Company at Colon.

Another friend of Dr. Allen was Henry B. Dean, of the firm of Dean & Shibley, brokers. He began by helping Dr. Allen carry his papers, and when established as a regular carrier he was paid \$1.10 a week, with fifteen cents extra when a supplement was issued, which had to be folded into the regular paper. The loneliness of the work impressed Mr. Dean, but occasionally he was cheered by a customer who was up and waiting for his paper. Registrar Douglas of Brown University was often found in the dark hall of the dormitory, ready to receive the Journal; and Samuel Noyes is remembered with gratitude, for he occasionally had a cup of hot coffee ready. The rule "first come, first served" was observed in dealing out the papers, and even then it was often necessary to urge the boys to be on hand earlier. The office was particularly anxious on a holiday to have the papers started out early, and Mr. Dean says that just before Thanksgiving one year it was announced that the first boy to arrive on that morning would receive a prize. By a special effort Mr. Dean was able to reach the office first, and a neatly bound package was handed him, which proved to contain the champion ear of corn that had been on exhibition in the Journal window.

Charles C. Newhall, who was a carrier from 1868 to 1870, remembers the strife to outwit "Joe" Bucklin and secure some extra copies of the paper without his knowing it. M. S. Dwyer, now superintendent of the news and mechanical departments of the Journal, began his service for the Journal in 1872 as a carrier and continued in that work for two years. Maj. Carver Howland was a carrier for nearly two years before he received his appointment as a cadet at West Point in 1872, and Maj. L. V. Kennon also distributed papers at about the same time.

Among the merchants who look back with satisfaction to their work as carriers are David S. and Horatio Fraser, coffee dealers, who are both impressed with the hardships which confronted boys who had to rise so early and face all sorts of weather. David came on in 1873, and he remembers that after a severe flood he was once obliged to walk along the upper cross bar of a picket fence to reach his subscribers' houses on Daboll street. Horatio remembers that one morning when the snow made traveling difficult, his father had to help him finish his route.

Many a Brown graduate began to earn money in preparation for college as a carrier for the Journal, but few of these continued the work after undertaking college duties. In this respect Edward C. Bixby, assistant librarian at the Providence Library, is an exception, for he not only continued carrying Journals until half-way through college, but he built up a route of Bulletins besides. As he lived two miles from the college, he estimates that he had to walk about twenty-five miles a day in all, a task which

few students would be willing to undertake in addition to their studies.

Harry C. Curtis, who succeeded to Mr. Bixby's route, had a dog which generally accompanied him in the morning, and he trained the animal to leave the paper on Lockwood street, thereby saving himself a good many steps. While the New Year's addresses were discontinued by Journal carriers in 1867, Mr. Curtis remembers that some customers wished to keep alive the custom of rewarding faithful boys, so they left word at the office the night before Christmas that a present would be ready for the carrier if he called the next day when he had finished his route. While the boys could not ask for fees, there was nothing to prevent accepting them at New Year's time, and one year Mr. Curtis says that he received \$5 from a subscriber who told him that after noting his arrival each morning for six months he found that he had not varied ten minutes in that period.

W. A. Presbrey, of A. A. Presbrey Sons & Co., who afterward graduated from Brown, thinks that his was one of the hardest routes, for it took him an hour and three-quarters to go over it. When Eugene C. Myrick, now of the Silver Spring Bleachery, applied for a carrier's position Mr. Davis feared that he would be too small to do the work; but he secured the opportunity to try, and he succeeded so well that he continued his route until half way through his course in Brown, where he was graduated in 1890. Mr. Myrick was known as the boy with the dog, and he taught his St. Bernard to run down side streets and drop papers on doorsteps. Many a morning Mr. Myrick would find the snow so drifted that



it would be difficult to reach the top step while carrying two bags of papers; but the dog could generally wallow through the snow, carrying the paper in his mouth. William V. Polleys, contractor with the R. H. Tingley Co., had a route on the East Side from 1882 until 1885, and is glad to consider himself eligible to the company of Journal boys.

The list of Journal carriers might be considerably extended, but no attempt has been made to secure a complete list of them. Enough representatives of each decade during the last ten years have been found to bring out the character of the work and to recall some of the names of men who form the members of the Journal family in whom Mr. Davis has taken an especial interest.

The story of the carriers would not be complete without further reference to the New Year's addresses they were for many years permitted to distribute. These were generally in the form of verse, which was printed on a single page, varying in size according to its length or ambitions of the paper, although the publishers did not always have a part in their preparation. The lines usually contained some hint of the object of the missive, and there was almost always an obsequious use of congratulations, suggesting that the time for substantial appreciation of the messenger service had come. The custom originated in the beginning of the last century, and was adopted pretty generally throughout the country, until it led to abuses and had to be discontinued by self-respecting newspapers. The author of the verse usually withheld his name and identity, but in rare cases he signed the missive. The events of the year were reviewed, especially



in such strenuous times as the Civil War, while occasionally the rhyme took on a religious tone of thankfulness for blessings and observations on the inexorable flight of time.

The New York and Philadelphia papers followed the custom, and exhibited considerable rivalry in attempts to make each offering outshine that of competitors. Illustrations were used, some of them serious, but more frequently pretending to be humorous, representing such scenes as the toper swearing off. The New York Herald, one year, illustrated incidents in the chronicle of the preceding twelve months, which seemed to have been noted for fires, as three out of four crude pictures were animated representations of fire departments battling with burning buildings.

When the example set by the carriers was adopted by such public servants as the Western Union Telegraph boys, who had Christmas addresses prepared, the revolt began, and the enterprising tradesmen gave the custom a death blow when they copyrighted "Newsmen's" or "Carriers' Union" addresses and offered them for sale in the news-stands throughout the country. Originally the newspapers recognized the custom, and often called attention to the addresses on New Year's morning by such a paragraph as this, which appeared in the Journal:

"The carriers wish to say that in the course of the morning they will wait on their patrons with the compliments of the season done in verse."

But the subscribers who did not contribute in response to the appeals were either slighted or they imagined that they were, and in 1867 the salaries of the Journal carriers

were increased and they were forbidden longer to distribute addresses.

One of the first addresses seen in Providence was that issued by the *Columbian Phoenix* in 1810, which began with the sentiment:

"Such is the Fashion of the time,  
A carrier now must deal in rhyme."

At first newspapers, in Rhode Island at least, were disposed to vary the form of the addresses, which sometimes appeared as calendars, the table for each month surrounding the verses, while the sheet was encircled by a border which was very elaborate for those days. While much that was written was mere doggerel, the attempt to secure real poetry was sometimes rewarded, as when Mrs. Sarah Helen Whitman or William Pabodie condescended to do something to please the boys. Probably Henry C. Whitaker was called on as frequently as any of the makers of verse to write these addresses, for his sympathies could easily be enlisted and he wrote with comparative ease. In an emergency one year some one suggested that ex-Mayor Rodman could write poetry, and he did so well that he was asked year after year to summarize local events in verse, which often contained pointed allusions to familiar characters or topics of discussion. Only once in the addresses discovered in Providence could the name of the author be found printed with the verse. When Mrs. Whitman's sister wrote for the daily *Post* boys in 1865 she ended her lines as follows:

"Wishing our patrons all a happy year,  
With social pleasures and sumptuous cheer,

# NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS OF THE CARRIERS OF THE Providence Journal.

JANUARY 1, 1894.

Borned roll the seasons—New Year's day  
Demands the Carrier's usual lay;  
"Happy New Year" he wishes all  
Who have received his daily mail  
Since eighteen hundred cart-paths  
Began the "year of grace" to be,  
Till now, beginning *new year morn*,  
We date our papers *new year*,  
And hope this year's prosperity  
Beyond all former years may be.

The Nation's prayer for peace sound,  
But still her conflict knows no end;  
And brothers still with brethren fight,  
Both crying—"God defend the right!"  
But no confusion in the cry  
Thence glances o'er the loyal eye;  
The patriot, to his country true  
Though sadly be the arrangement rue  
That parts the sons of mother-land,  
Will loyally to his purpose stand.  
The reign of order to restore,  
And make our country, as before,  
A "one of many," and remember  
Whatever may bech of union prove;  
To make the best to all men true,  
Of every race, of every hue;  
Again to set our flag full high,  
Honored by all beneath the sky;  
The saying true again to make—  
From northmost wood to southmost brake,  
Where waters run here up the lands,  
Where wide the golden gate expands,  
Where wait the flocks from pasture sweet,  
Where richly shivers the cotton plant,  
In contending where green geese fly,  
Where sweet ome courts the glowing sky,  
Where wheat sheaves wait the reaping train,  
Where rivers find the sea-strewn plain,  
Where cold fields teach the mountain spread,  
"Among the Fates," short'er 'tween said—  
"Our Nation, the fairest 'neath the sun,  
—Like waves, distinct,—like ocean, one."

The purpose every patriot heart  
Inspires. The brighten hour their part  
In the good work—some to the field,  
Go, their victorious arms to wield.  
Some—"In the staff" at home abide,  
In every craft its labor joined.  
In every art that serves the state,  
And still the call to arms await.

Ready to serve, when need requires,  
The furrow raps of battle fires.  
The purpose, holy women share;  
To this she gives her thoughts, her prayer.  
Her will, for this she makes through tears,  
And hovers her grief, and times her tears;  
Bids brothers, lovers, husbands, boys,  
Go, leave her home hells of joys,  
And breathe her lessons on men  
Who ne'er may see their homes again;  
For this she hospital the walls,  
With kindly deeds and cheering calls;  
For this she counts her daily pain,  
And every useful labor train  
Within her scope; and prevent her claim  
To share, with heaven, patriot flame.

On such a theme I love to dwell,  
But I have other things to tell;  
And from it I must turn away  
And keep the track for New Year's day  
Prescribed to Carriers. I must turn  
To things that seem of less concern;  
And yet all things, in such a time,  
Rank lofty in the light sublime;  
In common works we serve the State,  
This thought makes little things look great;  
And toil and thrift and enterprise  
In days like these, improve the time  
That fearful prophets dared to tell,  
When o'er us they would cast the spell  
Of coward indolence, when first  
The cloud of war upon us burst.

Old custom bids me now rehearse  
Some city made in my verse;  
And I am glad and proud to tell  
Such works begun and finished well;  
Such works attempted, that appear  
Dedicated to complete the year.

In locomotion, to and fro,  
Old Providence was never slow.  
Time out of mind we had the train,  
And then came on the reign of steam;  
And, side by side, the live and stir  
Went peacefully without a jar.  
Now, as the times far and near  
Have howe run, we must have them here;  
The so-called and easy train  
Must reverse himself and man;  
Over the Tropic take its lead,  
Stopping full all along the road.

And on the west side 'tis desired,  
Howe runs must serve the public need.  
Welcome improvement! Providence,  
A city bent for common weal,  
Improvement always has pursued,  
And standeth well the public good.  
From Howland's time, and back far more,  
Till eighteen hundred cart-paths

Along Westminister's banks,  
Where warriors once, in daily ranks,  
Trained silently with bow and quiver,  
Or skinned in light across the river,  
Now troops of workers, day by day,  
Take to the rifle works their way.  
Arms there to make, that bear a name  
That well deserves enduring fame—  
BREMEN—the name of one whose life  
Shines clearly through the gloom of strife;  
A soldier, fit to act and plan,  
A patriot true—an honest man.

From Builders' Iron Foundry, slow  
Through Westminister, so often go  
The ponderous cannon, that the grass  
Grows not along the way they pass;  
We think, when we behold the sight,  
The would-be-war man's mind was right,  
Who dared to let the word go forth—  
"This war will run all the North."

On Seekonk's bank, where once we went  
To silent solitude attend,  
To step at ease where land we waded,  
Upon our calm retreat could stand,  
Now stretch firm roads, and building lots,  
Sated for palace or cot,  
Find ready market, and the stream,  
Beneficial as a painter's dream,  
Will mirror groves and dwellings fair,  
And children will make music there.

Where'er we did become thrice so well?  
Where'er did those who buy and sell  
Have better times than our early?  
Where'er did work have better pay?  
Mark where our land, but more the year,  
And houses built 'tween her love.

While giving the city—four or five miles,  
Her wealth pours on with daily tide,  
Her numbers marvellously grow,  
May find generous homes,  
As through the many years of time,  
Through eighteen hundred cart-paths





The carrier stands, awaiting his reward,  
The author takes her leave and leaves her card."

S. A. POWER.

Occasionally an attempt was made to have the appeal more personal by using the carrier's name, as when the "New Year's address of Charles E. Gorman, the news-boy," appeared in 1855, while later a Massachusetts paper allowed "the business record of the printer's boy" to be distributed among its subscribers. The purpose of the message was not always expressed as frankly as it is in these lines:

"And should your feelings lead you to bestow,  
In generous impulse—fifty cents or so—  
On us—the carriers of your daily news—  
We shouldn't have the heart—I'm sure—to refuse."

When the inexperienced or uncultivated poet wooed the muse the inspiration did not always supply a word that rhymed with Journal, and this accounts for the frequent use of the word diurnal, even in the addresses of successive years. Thus one year the epistle contained these lines:

"Through each new born year, midst cold and heat,  
Our visits are made diurnal  
And our hearts are cheered by the smile we meet  
From the friends of the daily Journal."

A few years later the same ending appeared to the lines:

"To our kind friends and patrons of the Journal  
Whose doors we meet in our rounds diurnal."

And again:

"With a sudden start the carrier woke  
To find himself in office of the Journal  
With papers ready for his rounds diurnal."

Some idea of the character and diversity of these addresses may be gathered by a comparison of the one written in 1855, which was of average ability and characteristic of a majority of epistles, with that of 1867, which was the last one delivered by the Journal carriers. A stanza in the address of 1855 reads as follows:

“Oh, no sir, not a bill, though I confess  
You might expect one just at this time,  
No, not a bill, but only my address,  
My customary gift in annual rhyme.”

Here is a part of the legend told at length as a farewell in 1867:

“The stars had set in the wintry skies,  
And the dawn like an angel of paradise  
Had stolen through the midnight dungeon’s bar  
And left the gates of the morning ajar.

“Scarce were the Christmas greetings said,  
Scarce were the Christmas roses dead,  
When the New Year came with an eager tread  
With locks unshorn,  
Like a God new born  
To reign in the old year’s stead.

“New Year’s morning, the legends say,  
Like some seneschal old and gray,  
Back to the dwellings of living men,  
The ghost of the old year comes again.  
Little he recks of the crowded street,  
Little he cares for the hurrying feet,  
In ghostly gait, with footsteps fleet,  
He goes unseen,  
Like a shade I ween,  
The new born year to meet.

“The stars had set in the wintry sky,  
When the weird train came hurrying by,  
Only seen in the dusky street  
By the newsboys pacing their wonted beat.

List to the old year's solemn tread,  
List, oh! list! to the words he said,  
As he stood twixt the living and the dead,  
    And blessed the heir,  
    And prayed the care  
Of heaven upon his head.

The old king laid his hour-glass down,  
And took from his temples the hoary crown,  
And stood in the ghostly silence dumb,  
With the misty shape of the things to come.  
Blithely the new year raised his head,  
'Welcome the crown and the scythe,' he said,  
'The proud shall be humbled, the poor shall be fed;  
    In God's sweet peace,  
    The earth's increase  
Shall give the people bread.' "

Other newspapers continued the custom of New Year's addresses long after it was discontinued by the Journal, and even now Mr. Davis receives annually syndicate offers of such literature, but they are out of the fashion. Still while they lasted Providence papers furnished addresses as creditable as any to be found. After Mr. Rodman died the task of writing addresses seemed to fall on S. N. Mitchell's shoulders. He had composed popular songs, so he turned off effective rhymes for the boys for many years. But he has lived to see the custom die, with the change in the "fashion of the time."





## CHAPTER VIII.

### COLLECTING THE NEWS.

Revolution produced by the Telegraph.—Difficulties first experienced by this method of Transmission.—European News by Steamer before the Cable was laid.—The Journal's system of Collecting Election Returns.—Its Resources tested by Flood and Storm.—Successful Experiments with the Wireless method of transmitting Dispatches.



## COLLECTING THE NEWS.

When the transmission of European news under the ocean was made possible by the completion of the Atlantic cable a subscriber of the Journal remarked to Senator Anthony, "You give us daily, for a breakfast zest, news from nearly every part of the globe." "Yes," was the reply, "but the end is not yet." In connection with this remark it is significant that a few years later the Senator introduced a bill in Congress for the protection of a company which wanted to transmit news through the air by sound waves. Of course he was ridiculed, but while nothing came of that suggestion it might be considered a foreshadowing of the wireless telegraph of 1902, which his paper was one of the first to use in its news service.

Before the days of the telegraph the obstacles to any attempt to systematize the collection of general news were very great and little progress could be made, yet enterprising papers used trains and steamers and established expresses to railroad stations and employed boats to meet incoming steamers before they reached port. The Journal arranged to get the important news from Boston by means of special messenger, who sometimes covered the distance in four hours. Considerable improvement in the prompt collection of general news was secured by an arrangement with the editor of the Boston Atlas to work in combination, and this proved especially useful

in collecting returns of a national election. New York was then a great news centre, as it is to-day, and it was considered a great achievement, when the railroad was opened to Boston, that the news of the day could be put in type at night and shipped East by train, which could be intercepted at Danielsonville, Ct., and the matter be received here in season for insertion in the Journal the following morning. Before that arrangement was made most of the general news items printed in Providence had appeared the morning before in the New York city papers.

The Boston and New York Telegraph Company built a line in 1846 connecting the two cities by wires, which passed through Worcester and not by way of Providence. Then the express service to Boston, which had been especially useful in conveying European news brought across the water by steamers, could also handle the telegraph news that centred in New York city. Senator Anthony, in the meantime, realizing the need of a wire to Providence, became one of the incorporators of the Rhode Island Magnetic Telegraph Company which built a line along the railroad from Providence to Worcester.

Before the consolidation of the lines there were several companies doing business and dividing the profits, so that the rivalry between them was sharp. In Providence the House system had an office in the Washington building, the Bain company was stationed on Canal street, nearly opposite Washington Row, while the Morse company office was on South Main street. Bidding for business was so active that the Bain and House operators kept champagne ready to serve customers, and each of



the three profited by accidents that continually happened to their rivals.

Benjamin F. Ashley, now residing in New York city, was connected with the office in Washington building which used the House machine, then considered very efficient for receiving messages. This machine printed the dispatches out on paper ribbon in a single line of capital letters. A wheel, turned by hand, furnished the power for the operator, who manipulated a set of keys. In the Bain system a paper disc was treated with chemicals so it received the current and the dots and dashes left their impress on it as the paper revolved. The Morse receiver was much like the ticker of to-day, except that it recorded only dots and dashes instead of capital letters.

The House system claimed the advantage, because there was no necessity for the operator to transcribe the code; but no doubt the other offices made corresponding claims of superiority. The newspaper offices preferred the House system, for they could give dispatches out as copy just as they came to the telegraph office. The custom was to measure out three sections of the ribbon between the outstretched hands and to put them on the hook for one "take" to the compositor, who was expected to fill in the missing letters and prepare suitable headings.

All these devices finally gave way to the Morse system and its code, and the rival companies, which had been engaged in commercial warfare, were merged one by one. While the receiver takes his messages now on the typewriter, the first operators developed speed in manuscript and soon became expert in rapid writing. Walter P.

Phillips, who afterward became manager for the United Press Association, was long an operator for the Western Union company in Providence, and he made a record in 1868 by receiving by sound and writing out in one hour 2,731 words sent to Providence from Boston, which is an average of a little over forty-five words a minute.

Credit was given the House system in Providence for early recognition of the fact that electricity caused the display of Northern lights, for some scientists had previously supposed that they were the reflection of sunlight on ice packs. Mr. Ashley noticed that every flash in the sky seemed to throw the instruments into disorder; so he called the manager's attention to the matter, which was reported for the papers. All these features of the telegraph interested Mr. Davis, while a messenger boy in the office.

The telegraph had solved the problem of collecting domestic news promptly, and the great increase in its volume led to the various news-gathering associations formed for the purpose of exchange and the consequent prevention of unnecessary work. Such an organization was formed by the New York newspapers in 1851, but it was not until 1856 that the Associated Press came into being to gather the world's news. But Europe was still a great way off, for its news had to come by steamers, which required two or three weeks to cross the ocean.

The incoming steamers usually touched at Halifax, and the news packages brought by them were dropped off there. Then the Associated Press would send the contents of the European mail to New York city in cipher, which was there transcribed and sent out by telegraph

all over the United States. It is hardly possible now to conceive of a time when news from the other half of the globe was from two to three weeks old when published and the papers kept standing such headlines as "Three Days later from Europe" to mark the interval that had elapsed since the arrival of the previous steamer. Business men nervously waited for market reports, while the public suspense can be imagined when the United States was not certain whether such episodes as the Mason-Slidell incident meant war with Great Britain. Hence when word came "steamer sighted off Halifax," all the newspaper offices would keep open for the news.

Cable messages were exchanged across the Atlantic in 1866, but the first messages were largely congratulatory, much as were the words which Marconi professes to have recently transmitted across the ocean by his wireless system. By the time the Franco-Prussian war broke out the cable service was well perfected, so that fairly full reports could be transmitted.

Nearly twenty years had intervened between the telegraph and the ocean cable, and it was fully ten more before the telephone came into practical use. When an instrument for conveying sounds over a wire was exhibited at the Centennial in 1876 it was considered little better than a plaything; but more capital was available for its perfection than when the telegraph was put to public use and a practical telephone service was soon developed.

The only local news considered worthy of much space in the early days was the election returns, which were always collected with thoroughness, and it was expensive at first to get them from all parts of the State promptly.



Samuel A. Coy of Westerly is remembered as a collector of election returns from Washington and Kent counties, and he sometimes used a locomotive on the Stonington line, which messengers could meet along the route. With no regular reporters, the paper depended largely on its friends for local matters of interest; but there soon came evidences of system in publishing the record of sessions of the Assembly or the City Council, which like the proceedings of Congress were considered of the first importance and were given almost entire.

In the reporting of elections, a work in which Mr. Davis has taken an active part during all his years of service in the office, the Journal is unique among all the newspapers of the land in that with its own staff, increased somewhat for the occasion, it collects the returns from every voting district in an entire State. This has been practicable because of the size of the State, and necessary because during nearly all its career it had been the State's only morning paper. For many years also,—until, that is, the establishment of a State Returning Board in 1901—its compilation of the vote for State officers was the only one made. The law in those days made the canvassing and adding of the precinct officers' returns a duty of the General Assembly. But when the committee to which the duty was delegated found itself confronted with the many bundles of ballots it was accustomed to content itself with taking the figures from the columns of the Journal of the day after election and report the results accordingly. In effect, the Journal's count was thus the official count by which governors and other officers were seated.



Of course, however, it was not any sense of responsibility of that sort that led to the elaboration of the paper's efforts on election days. For generations the people of Rhode Island have been accustomed to look to it for early and complete news of local elections—not merely the general results and the total pluralities, but the exact number of votes cast for every candidate for every office in every precinct—and to meet this demand the full resources of the office have been employed. In the early days this meant special locomotives, pony expresses run in relays from the remoter rural voting places, and toilsome tabulation and addition by Mr. Davis and his counting-room clerks. Now, with increased population, multiplied voting places, and greater possibilities in expeditious communication it means the hiring of special telegraph and telephone lines, the use of wireless telegraphy, and the organization of three distinct special forces of workers—the first at the polls, to hurry the fragmentary returns to the office; the second in the news room, to collate and prepare for the copy table; the third in the composing room, to assemble the set matter line by line in its proper place in the arranged form of tabular presentation.

Completeness of organization for an anticipated task is the Journal's mark of competency in news service on election day, as readiness to meet unforeseen emergencies is on all the days of the year. A member of the staff, perhaps specially engaged for the occasion, is stationed in each of the voting precincts of the State when the polls close, with a printed blank form on which to take the count. As fast as the count progresses, if a telephone is accessible, he gives the figures to the office for use in mak-

ing bulletins and preparing early forecasts of results. When the count in his precinct is completed and his blank form is filled, which in some precincts may not be till daylight is breaking, he telegraphs or telephones the full results to the office or himself hurries thither with them. There another force of men is waiting, each having a special part of the work of tabulation assigned to him. First the figures received are transferred to other printed forms, so arranged that each shall carry to the composing room the copy for a single line of the tabulated matter as it is intended to appear in the paper. Next they are read successively to the men whose part it is to tabulate and add the votes for the different offices. The tables of figures thus gradually growing through the night are not sent to the composing room; they are kept only to get the totals, for which adding machines are employed, and when the last precinct return comes in, or the last that is to be used in a given edition, its figures need only to be added to those that have come before and the result—a single “total” line—sent to the composing room.

In this department, guided by sub-heads and table captions that have been set in advance and galleyed separately, the copy as it has come up line by line has been put into linotype lines and placed in proper order on the proper galleys; so that simultaneously with the growing of the tables of figures toward the totals in the news room the same figures in type form have been accumulating on their proper galleys in the composing room. Thus at the end of the night, the main heads and introduction having been written and set as soon as the final results were clearly foreshadowed, when the last total is

obtained in the news room it needs but a couple of minutes to have the completed galleys ready for the forms. To get all the figures from all the precincts into the office at the earliest possible moment, to get those figures in copy form into the composing room as soon as possible after they reach the office, and to keep the work of setting at every moment as far advanced as the work of tabulating—these are the prime objects of the Journal's system of work for election nights. Except for the failure of some precinct officers to complete their count in time, the system must result in giving the readers the next morning a complete report, down to the minutest details, of the balloting throughout the whole State.

Besides that, there is, of course, another election service which the paper must render. It must meet the demands of that large number of active politicians and others specially interested in elections who will not wait for the morning issue but who flock to the Journal office, on the evening of every election day, seeking to know in advance the probable general results and the prospective pluralities. To meet these demands, besides the men busily tabulating the returns for the morning issue, there are others studying them as they come in, picking out significant facts and figures and putting them on lantern slides for display on the stereopticon sheet outside the building or transmitting them by telephone to inquirers at a distance; and still others who are making comparisons with the figures of previous elections and thereby reaching estimates of probable results. From the earliest times the inquirers for this sort of information have thronged the Journal office on election nights. In the old days at



Barton block they would pack the long counting room to suffocation, and Mr. Danielson himself would come out from his room to read returns to them and to announce the latest estimates. The candidates would often gather in the news room and themselves assist in adding up the figures that showed their triumph or defeat. In the outer room discussion would often wax hot among the waiting throng, and at times of unusual uncertainty and excitement order was preserved only with difficulty. In the later times the use of the stereopticon, the megaphone, and the flash-light has kept most of the eager inquirers outside the office, but still the rooms that are open are always filled, and it is necessary to devote one telephone to the exclusive use of answering inquiries.

In all this work—which means, of course, many hours of preparation before election day as well as the labors of the night itself—Mr. Davis has throughout his connection with the paper taken an active and interested part. It has fallen to him to supervise the arrangements for collecting the returns from the districts outside the cities; and in earlier years he did a large part of the tabulating done in the office. With the increase of the work that, of course, was impossible; many tabulators, labor-saving devices, and division of labor became necessary, but he still serves with the younger men every election night, and never leaves the office till the last total has been sent upstairs and the rumble of the presses has begun.

The flood of 1886 tested the resources of the Journal for the collection of news, especially in this part of New England, to which the overflow was mainly confined. The rain began February 10 and continued for thirty-six



hours, until February 12, while the fall of rain, sleet, and melting snow amounted to 8.13 inches, a record which has seldom been surpassed in the United States. There were nearly two feet of drifted snow on the ground, which had been frozen hard, so that the rising waters had no other means of escape except to flood the valley. The storm appeared to be most severe in the area drained by the Moshassuck river, which is ordinarily a comparatively small stream. The Woonasquatucket river was also compelled to take a tremendous addition to its usual volume, and the tide poured by both these streams into the old cove basin nearly reached the pavements of Exchange place.

The first signs of the magnitude of the flood were apparent Thursday afternoon, February 11, when reports from surrounding villages brought the information that the water in every stream was very high. The Bulletin for Thursday, however, went to press without special efforts to describe the situation. During the evening the Moshassuck river began to approach the danger point; so reporters were sent in every direction about the city, but in many cases their tedious jaunts did not bring results for publication until Friday's Bulletin.

By Friday streams overflowed and washed roads and destroyed bridges, buildings along the rivers were flooded, dams were carried away or injured, and the railroad tracks became so dangerous that the running of trains had to be stopped. The Moshassuck river, where it reaches the vicinity of the Charles street railroad crossing, swept over the street upon the railroad tracks, and from that point to the Smith street bridge a four-foot current rushed along

the rails in the "cut" and emptied again into the Moshassuck at the northern end of Canal street. Of course this blocked all north-bound trains, which had to be held in the station.

The flood in the valley of the Moshassuck reached its height Friday forenoon, but some of the other basins drained by the Providence river continued to rise until that night, when the most damage was done. All communication with Boston and Worcester by railroad was cut off nearly all day Friday, although some trains, preceded by wrecking apparatus, went through that night. In the meantime persons who were anxious to reach Boston started in a party wagon, leaving Exchange place at 11 o'clock that forenoon. There were not many long-distance telephones in use at that time, and comparatively few other lines running outside the city, and these were in some cases carried down by the flood. The telegraph wires worked fairly well, but they were in such a condition that only important news was transmitted. The Journal's reporters and correspondents about the city were compelled, almost without exception, to bring in their own news because it could not be sent over wires and messengers were not sure of getting through. The Bulletin, nevertheless, went to press with crowded columns describing the storm, and printed 33,730 copies—a large number for that time.

The total loss through the flood probably reached a half-million dollars, for not a town in the State escaped the consequences of the overflowing of the streams. Roads had to be remade, bridges rebuilt, the railroads repaired and cleared of *débris*, and manufacturers were compelled to repair their plants and make up losses on stored stock

and machinery. The city of Providence had to restore streets and partly destroyed bridges. The Mayor of the city, the late Thomas A. Doyle, was on the scene of the Moshassuck floods all Thursday night and Friday forenoon, and other officials who could do anything to save property were on duty for thirty or more consecutive hours. They early perceived the danger threatened by the famous Georgiaville dam, and ordered those having charge of it to let off all the water possible. It was fortunate that the tide was running out when the greatest rush of waters came.

Another test of the newspaper's ability to surmount obstacles in handling news was made in the famous blizzard of 1888, when New York city and southern New England were storm-bound for four days. The storm reached Providence Sunday evening, March 11, when the barometer began to fall, and it continued in its downward course until Tuesday morning when it showed a pressure of 28.85 at an elevation of 75 feet above the sea, a record seldom equalled in this locality. Only seven inches of snow fell in Providence, but this was whirled by the wind into troublesome drifts. Down the Stonington road, as it was then called, and along the whole of the Shore Line to New York, the fall was much heavier, so that the drifts completely blocked the trains. In New York city the storm was even more severe, and completely tied up the steamship, railroad, and other transportation service of the metropolis. The area of the barometrical depression was from one hundred miles west of New York to north-central New England and the ocean.

As New York is the centre of general news, the effect of



the blizzard on that city was apparent in the newspaper offices generally. Several long-distance telephones could be worked from Boston to Albany and thence to New York city, but the messages were transmitted with the greatest difficulty and hours occasionally intervened between the periods of open-line operation. With this unsatisfactory exception, Providence had no means of communication with New York from Monday to Friday by usual methods.

The character of the situation was realized at the Journal office Tuesday forenoon, when provision was made to get into touch with New York as quickly as possible. Reporters were sent to various points, particularly to Stonington, where it was supposed that the first news from New York might come by boat. One reporter spent two days and a night there waiting for the first boat, which did not arrive until 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. By this means the Journal was able to secure the news for Thursday morning, although it was several days late.

The Bulletins of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday printed no fresh news that was not entirely local. The Journals of Tuesday and Wednesday were likewise lacking in general dispatches. But when the reporter secured newspapers from New York city by the Stonington boat Wednesday afternoon the Associated Press was able to glean a record of 8,000 words of the world's happenings, which were put on the wire that night for the New England papers. This was probably the heaviest report sent out from Providence in one night by that organization, either before or since the blizzard. This



fresh information included the announcement of the death of the Emperor of Germany, a dispatch that should have been published Monday afternoon. This boat continued to be the only means of communication between New York and a large part of New England for several days.

The condition of travelers on the road to New York had been rather serious, and the report that several invalids on their way to Florida had suffered from the exposure induced a reporter to tramp nineteen miles in the snow after a train which was plowing its way to that city. The old ferryboat that then carried the trains across the Thames at New London was loaded down with two trains full of passengers, for whom food had to be sought in the vicinity. East river was frozen over in New York city, which was in danger of a famine for several days.

Although Providence was shut out from a part of the world by this blizzard, the storm was not severe enough here to cause much suffering, although the poor train service to the south of the city was a great inconvenience. Nearby towns were not cut off as they had been by the floods of 1886 and the telegraph lines to Worcester were intact. The Journal kept men on the scenes of the digging out of trains between Providence and New York until communication was open. But during the interruption of telegraphic reports of Congressional speeches and incidents in European life the local force proved that the paper could be made interesting with only city news, and it was some satisfaction to reverse the order that prevailed in the previous generation—when home problems were hardly considered worth mentioning, but European and national affairs were printed at length.

Another case where difficulties in the prompt collection of news which seemed unsurmountable were overcome was in the report of the preliminary hearing given to Lawrence Keegan, when he was bound over to the grand jury for the murder of Mrs. Emily Chambers on the Scituate hills September 27, 1894. Keegan was taken before a judge in the isolated village of Richmond, which was without telegraph or telephone facilities and was located three miles from any line of communication by wire to the city of Providence. There was great local interest attending the case, since the parties were from Providence, and the tragedy was involved in much mystery.

The case was set for October 20, the week of the horse races at Narragansett Park. The Journal company made arrangements with A. H. Barney for the use of running horses from his stables, by which the report was taken as fast as written to the point where the telephone wire passed nearest to the place. Here a telegraph operator tapped the wire, placing the instrument in his lap while he dispatched the reports to the Bulletin office as fast as they were brought to him. Two horses were used, Athalena running from Richmond to Ashland, where she was relieved by her mate Jakey Joseph, who covered the remaining distance to the point on the Saundersville pike where the wire had been intercepted.

The result was that a full account of the proceedings appeared in the Bulletin the same afternoon, the news being received almost as quickly as if the hearing were held in the Providence Court House. The Bulletin was the only newspaper which had the news of the murder case that day, and the achievement was one of the

most extraordinary in the history of reporting. To the village people the sight of the racing horses dashing over the road at frequent intervals was indeed a novelty, which could not fail to impress them with the expedients to which a newspaper may resort when confronted with obstacles.

For its general news reports the Journal has been served by the leading New England and national associations engaged in such work, but in late years they have been supplemented by special reports from New York representatives.

When the fact was established that wireless communication was possible through the air the Journal decided to test the matter practically, to learn what were the possibilities of this system for the collection of news as well as for commercial purposes, and it established at considerable expense stations at Point Judith and Block Island, installed operators there, and transmitted messages to and from the island. In this enterprise, which was undertaken as an experiment, the Journal was actuated by the same motive which had prompted it to adopt the typesetting machines before they had come into general use, and, as in that case, the results have been entirely satisfactory.

The tests proved that the simple but mysterious method was entirely practicable and could be used in competition with better known means, for news matter had been sent and received at an average rate of twenty words a minute over a space of thirteen miles, and it was possible to communicate with vessels for considerable distances at sea.

When the operators had acquired considerable facility

it was decided to try the publication of a daily newspaper on Block Island during the summer which should receive its telegraphic news by wireless transmission through the Journal office from Point Judith. One result of this was to bring the isolated communities where the stations are situated into closer touch with the country, while it afforded the publisher an opportunity to make further experiments with the possibilities of wireless appliances. Marine observatories were established at both points, and passing vessels are now regularly and promptly reported to their owners.

The Block Island newspaper, which was conducted during the summer-resort season of forty-five days, was the second in the world; for the Los Angeles Times had already done similar work in establishing communication with Catalina Island on the Pacific coast, and had maintained a newspaper there.



## CHAPTER IX.

### THE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT.

Typesetting by Machinery first adopted in New England by the Journal.—The successive Improvements in Presses and their increase in Speed.—Development of the Art Department and its present Equipment.



## THE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT.

Hardly less important than the collection and arrangement of news by a morning journal is the facility for speedily putting it into type and getting it ready for distribution before dawn. With the enormous advance made possible by the telegraph and telephone in the prompt collection of reports the tendency has been to increase the volume of matter instead of furnishing greater opportunity for its arrangement in the office and transmission to the printed page. The result has been that where once hours intervened between the closing up of the forms and the arrival of the pressman, who printed them, the mechanical processes have been so greatly improved that enormous editions are now turned out in minutes where once the work would have required days and almost weeks. The daily paper, with morning, evening, and Sunday editions, is now practically a continuous industry on which work is never suspended for an instant. Fast presses gave the first relief to the perplexed publisher, who felt the limitations of printing machinery. These contrivances for increasing the speed of printing did not satisfy the demand for the prompt transmission of news, for with the possibility of printing more matter in much shorter time there came the pressure for more news and prompt service.

The introduction of type-casting machines produced a similar result as the invention of fast presses, for the

publisher who saw possibilities in the cheapening of composition soon found that the only effect of linotype machines was to increase the matter printed and to make more pages for the same money that had been expended for picking up the type by hand. While in both printing and setting up the type the Journal has been always abreast of the time and has taken advantage of every serviceable invention, it has been during the past fifty years that the most notable changes have been made in the Journal office to keep its equipment modern. In fact, it has led in the two most important inventions which have revolutionized printing during that time—the adoption of cylinder presses and the use of the linotype machine. When the Hoe press was first put in it seemed a notable achievement to have secured the first machine of the sort outside of Boston; but when Ottmar Mergenthaler's discovery, which had grown out of a determination to construct a practical typesetter, was put to the test, editors at the metropolis of New England were either skeptical or feared the antagonism of the organizations which bitterly opposed the machines that threatened to displace many of the craft.

It was known by the publishers that a Washington stenographer's hope to produce a machine that would lessen the manual labor required to form letters had led him to perfect a machine that the inventors believed would arrange characters in a form ready for printing in a much more rapid way than they could be assembled by hand. Enthusiasts had been working on the letter-machine idea for ten years, and when this led to the type-setting models similar objections seemed to arise and make



the plan wholly impractical. But the stenographer, J. O. Clephane, persisted and hunted out inventors working on this idea for whom he secured aid.

One of the most promising of these was Mr. Mergenthaler, a poor watchmaker, employed in a Baltimore machine shop for a mechanical engineering firm. He devoted his spare moments to the invention for many years with rare patience and perseverance, which was finally rewarded by a recognition that he had discovered a system of casting from matrices that might be made practical. He tried to cast the lines in a set form, but justifying and correcting were difficult. Then he suggested putting the type matrices together in a little brass frame, casting ten lines at a time. Although this was favorably received the inventor seems to have lost heart, for he withdrew from the concern interested in his patents. While promoters were busy with these matrices, which were made from type faces, Mr. Mergenthaler produced a new form of matrix, which is practically the one in use to-day, and made the single face of type in a row of letters cast in a solid line.

In the meantime Whitelaw Reid of the Tribune and other newspaper men had become interested in a company for making linotype machines, and they gladly adopted the new form of brass matrix which finally solved the problem of composition by machinery. But the invention was by no means perfect yet. One great difficulty was in justifying the lines so as to bring them out even at the end and distribute the space remaining between all the words in the line. This problem had been solved however, by another inventor, who devised a wedge space

for use between words, which might be increased in thickness at a single blow and thus divide the room left after the last word in the line among the preceding words.

People who wonder at the mechanism of the linotype to-day, and are inclined to attribute to it almost human qualities, often overlook the fact that this little space band was necessary to make the machine practical; for if the operator had to stop at the end of his line and "justify" by hand the space left over, the value of the machine as a time-saver would be lost entirely. The linotype was practically complete when it was furnished with these spaces for use between the little brass matrices; but the feeding of separate molds for type faces into their assembly place was still defective, as was the system of injecting the hot metal into the mold.

For months when the machine was on exhibition at Baltimore visitors were liable to be spattered with the molten metal, which was not ejected with precision or effectively. Gravity was not considered of sufficient force to bring down the matrices into line, so compressed air was used to eject them and a wire line steadied them directly to their places. In other respects the machines installed in the Providence Journal office in 1889 were much like the machines made to-day, but even then there were skeptics who doubted whether any machine could supplant the hand operator who had made little advance in one hundred years, except possibly to develop dexterity and increase the speed possible in the operation of laboriously picking the single type from its compartment in the case and setting it into the "stick." But here was

a machine that would arrange a line of matrices, automatically distribute the space left as the end of the line was approached, cast a solid block, and distribute the matrices again, without much attention from the operator, save to touch the right keys to bring down the proper letters. A long arm, which seems to be endowed with human skill, reaches down and, grasping the matrices that have been put in the line, carries them to the top of the machine, where a screw moves the row along a lock bar built much on the plan of the cash carrier, so that each matrix for a letter drops in at the right place ready for use in forming another line.

The New York Tribune, Louisville Courier-Journal, and Chicago News became financially interested in the Mergenthaler machines and began using them a year before the Journal took hold of the matter, but they did not install plants to supersede their hand composition. The linotype was considered an experiment, when the publisher of the Journal saw it had probable elements of success and offered to equip his composing room with it. In the spring of 1889, just before the Barton block was vacated, the machines were set up in the building on the corner of Westminster and Eddy streets, so as to be ready for use when the place was occupied. The old composing room was not entirely abandoned at first, for the fourth floor was fitted up with the cases which were so soon to be abandoned.

During the first few months there were discouraging incidents, such as the clogging of the channels through which the matrices were forced by the compressed air, the scattering of the molten metal, and other minor de-



fects which have since been remedied. But the machines were practically a success from the start, and their faults were soon corrected. The first machines to enter New England, and the fourth set installed in the country, they were visited by inquiring publishers and foremen of newspaper offices, who generally adopted them later; for the linotype machine now holds sway in nearly every office in the country. The inventor did not live long to enjoy all the distinction which his genius had earned, for he died of consumption in 1899; but he did not suffer those disappointments that fall to the lot of many a genius, for he shared in the proceeds from his profitable enterprise. It is said that in all inventions there is a point at which experiment proves the practical use to which the device may be put, and after that there can only be perfecting improvements. Thus the locomotive has not changed in principle since it was first planned, and the trolley car is moved by a motor working on the principle of the first invention. There will always be doubters who hesitate about the adoption of an apparently successful invention, and there are thousands who have championed hare-brained schemes; but when the recognition of the value of a new invention is the part of a continuous policy, which is to be on the alert to improve mechanical conditions, there is little element of chance involved.

To illustrate the care with which the decision to adopt Mergenthaler machines was made, credit should be given to the opinion of the late Lucian Sharpe, an officer of the Journal corporation, who inspected the machines in operation, and his approval was the judgment of an expert in machinery whose scientific instruments are well-



known the world over. The linotype machine may be said to have been perfected in practical operation at the office of the Journal, which was the fourth newspaper in the country to give it a trial and the first in New England. There were eleven of them set up, and John Burger, a machinist, who was with Mr. Mergenthaler during the experiments he made in Baltimore, soon took charge of them and was able to put them in efficient condition. He still remains in charge of the machines, which have twice been replaced. Nearly four years ago eleven machines were purchased by the company, one of which sets "heads" while three of them have changeable fonts, representing the latest modern improvements. The New England paper that first followed the Journal was the Concord, N. H. Patriot, which secured them in 1892; in Boston the first to adopt them was the Post, which did not put in a plant until 1893.

When the linotype machines were introduced the device was still imperfect, and the operators were obliged to pay so much attention to the mechanism that little time could be given to deciphering bad manuscripts. Type-writing machines were not in general use then, although one had been operated for a short time in the counting room for the business department. It was decided to transcribe all the copy for the printers using the linotype machines to typewritten pages, and Miss Gertrude Johnson was engaged for this purpose. She was an expert operator who had received her training at the Pullman company's office. As the work increased it was thought best to have another operator, which the Pullmans were again asked to provide. As a result, Mr. R. W.

Jennings came to Providence, and after serving some time as a copyist he did reporting. Mr. Jennings afterwards became private secretary to Governor Brown, and when he left the office he took Miss Johnson with him. Mrs. Jennings is now instructor in stenography and type-writing and her husband is absorbed in politics, for he is secretary to Chas. R. Brayton as well as clerk of the State returning board.

Each step in the development of the printing machinery in the Journal office has been taken to meet the new conditions in the demand for news, and while every improvement seemed to provide for the needs for a long time, it would be only a few years before another change became necessary. It would sometimes appear that the increase in capacity created a demand that taxed every facility until another change had to be made. Fifty years ago an improved Adams press, which had succeeded the platen and frisket type, was in operation. The impressions made were distinguished at this period by the white lines on the border of the columns made by the tape which moved the paper along and protected it from the impression.

When in 1856 a single small-cylinder Hoe press was installed it was considered a great achievement that 1,800 impressions could be made in an hour. The paper was enlarged a second time, being increased from seven to eight columns, and seven inches were added to the length of the page. An impression cylinder had taken the place of the old platen, but the paper had still to be passed through twice to be printed on both sides. In 1862 another Hoe press was bought, with double the

capacity of the first one, which was gained by adding a cylinder, so that an impression was made as the forms passed each one on the bed.

When the office was moved to the Barton block in 1871, a four-cylinder press was installed, a machine which was then superior to any in New England outside of Boston and Springfield. This was really a "double deck" press, two cylinders being placed above the two which had been the feature of the other machine. Next came the press of six cylinders, arranged in pairs one above the other and working on much the same principle as the two-cylinder press. By this arrangement 12,000 impressions could be made in an hour, but the machine was obsolete in six years. The invention of the cylinder on which the type forms could be locked, the column rules being curved to fit the "turtle backs," was the beginning of the modern fast press; and the machine could be well called "perfecting," for it needed only the adoption of stereotyping to reach the highest stage of development known to-day.

The next improvement was stereotyping, by which process the type faces were reproduced on solid metal curved plates, so there was no longer danger of metal pieces becoming loosened in the forms and flying out at a tangent as they revolved. In 1881 the Hoes built a single web perfecting press for the Journal, and this machine took the blank paper from a continuous roll, but it had no folder attachment, as that feature had not then been fully developed. This press could print an eight-page paper at the rate of 24,000 an hour. A folding, cutting, and pasting attachment was added in 1886.

Since that time three presses have been made for the



Journal, and all of them are now available for use. Their capacity and speed are about the same, but each new one possessed the latest mechanical improvements. All three of them are double-supplement presses with a capacity of 24,000 papers an hour when the paper is twelve pages in size, and 12,000 an hour when the paper is either sixteen, twenty, or twenty-four pages in size.

For the mechanical equipment in the new building the very best press facilities have been secured, since the new machines will not only reach as great a speed as has been attained by any yet manufactured, but they will be capable of using five different colors in ink, thus producing high-grade pictures to conform to modern standards in illustration. R. Hoe & Co. are building these two sextuple presses, each to have a capacity of 24,000 copies an hour of ten, twelve, fourteen, sixteen, eighteen, twenty, twenty-two, and twenty-four-page papers complete, cut, folded, and pasted. Of eight-page papers each press will print 48,000 copies an hour.

Walter Scott, who assisted in the press room, has seen the development of the press from the old flat bed machine to the type cylinder, perfecting press of to-day. He has reason to remember the old double-cylinder machine, for his arm was drawn into its gearing one day, when another workman threw it off its centre and the powerful springs caught him, mangling that limb badly. Before the days of web rolls the paper was bought in reams, and it was one of the duties of the pressman to prepare this for printing by dampening every few sheets, when it was spread out in piles, the process of smoothing out the creases being known as "breaking the back" of the fold.



The six-cylinder press was the most imposing of any used, for it required three feeders at each end and thus was three stories high.

When the morning paper issued extras during the day to give the war news, before the Bulletin was started, these were two-page sheets, printed double and then divided by tearing them apart with a column rule as guide. Often they contained only a few lines of live news, which was leaded conspicuously amid dispatches that had appeared in the morning. Mr. Scott would sometimes notify Mr. Danielson of the receipt of war news on a Sunday and urge him to issue an extra edition. If Mr. Danielson did not think it worth while Mr. Scott occasionally bought the edition and printed it on his own account. The last time that he did this was when the news of the surrender of Gen. Lee at Appomatox came on a Sunday. He had great expectations in handling this edition, but he was disappointed, for people did not seem to care to buy the paper when they knew the war was over.

The Journal was one of the first newspapers in New England to realize the value of illustration in daily journalism, and from the day the first illustration appeared in its pages it has endeavored to keep pace with the improvements that have been introduced from time to time. In the early life of this branch of newspaper endeavor its importance was quickly admitted, clearly proven to the satisfaction of all—editors and readers—and it only remained necessary to develop the field.

The Journal has to-day an art department fully equipped to carry any needed illustration through the various stages to the stereotyping room. Artists and

photographers are ready at a moment's notice to take snap shots, sketch, or "frame up" pictures. And photo-engravers are ready to reduce the photographs or sketches to printable form. The system is so perfect that the laymen would scarcely believe cuts could be produced in such a short time. It is not unusual to print a half-tone illustration of a noonday event in the Bulletin that appears on the street three hours later.

The first news of the fire in the Masonic building of Chicago, January 23, 1904, reached the Journal office at a quarter before 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Two minutes later the engraving department received for reproduction a picture of the building, and at 3:25 o'clock, thirty-eight minutes afterward, a finished two-column, half-tone cut of the Chicago structure was ready for printing.

All the work—art, photography, and photo-engraving—is done by Journal employees in the office. Until April, 1902, the illustrations were reproduced by outside engravers, but since that time the Journal has used its own plant.

The development of special articles as a feature of the Sunday Journal created a demand for illustrations. The first picture made in the Journal office for use in its columns was a cut of the steamer yacht Norma, which appeared May 9, 1886. This was drawn by Charles H. Howland, who was a reporter rather than an artist. A picture of the schooner yacht Sachem, owned in Providence, appeared in the issue of Sunday May 30. There were numerous old-time wood cuts in the issue of the Journal, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding

of Providence. Charles P. Davis began occasional work with illustrations to a poem "The Ancient Anglers of Warren," published Sunday, July 18, 1886, and later he became a more frequent contributor until he was regularly attached to the Journal staff in 1888.

The establishment of this department April 7, 1888, was occasioned by the engagement of Mr. Davis, who not only sketched the pictures, but engraved them on the zinc himself. Later, when the department expanded, the drawings were sent elsewhere for reproduction. Mr. Davis remained with the Journal for about a year and a half, and he is now connected with the School of Fine Arts in St. Louis.

Soon the illustrations were not confined to the Sunday editions, for the desirability of picturing events for the week-day issues became apparent. It was found that the process of making zinc plates was too slow for daily editions, so the chalk-plate process was employed for several years, but this soon became obsolete.

The camera has had an interesting part in the development of the art work on a newspaper. One of the first cameras used on the Journal was a tiny pocket affair, 1½ inches, which the artist personally owned and carried with him on his sketching tours, where he found it of great advantage. From this small photographic beginning, about six years ago, the present camera equipment of the art department has been evolved, including practically everything that varying conditions might require, from the small 4 x 5 to the 6½ x 8½ Graphic and 8 x 10 King tripod, with a complete assortment of lenses.

Cameras, though useful, were not essential until the

newspaper half-tones came into use, and in a sense the half-tone has revolutionized newspaper illustration. It has robbed it of whatever crudeness or unnaturalness it might have possessed, and it has rendered feasible a far more extensive illustrative plan. The first notable half-tone work from photographs published in the Journal was on the occasion, in February, 1899, of the return of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment. Before this half-tones had been published occasionally, but the custom grew rapidly from that date. To show the increased activity of the Journal's art department the figures for three years are interesting. During 1901 the total number of cuts made was 2,712; 3,951 cuts were made in 1902, and 5,465 in 1903.



## CHAPTER X.

### HOMES OF THE JOURNAL.

Evolution from the office in the Old Coffee House to the New Building being erected.—Some Characteristics of the Places Occupied During the Last 50 Years.



## HOMES OF THE JOURNAL.

In the last fifty years the Journal has successively occupied three homes, and will soon move into a fourth, which is being built so as to include the site of the present Journal building. When the Journal was first established it was published in the old "Coffee House" building which stood at the corner of Market square and Canal street. The publishing business was moved across the "bridge" to the corner of Dyer street in August, 1823, but it remained in that location only a year. The next move was to the "granite building," which still faces Market square, and the Journal was printed there for nearly ten years. During that period a fire in May, 1833, injured the plant, but the office was restored and continued to be occupied until the establishment was transferred to the Whipple building, which then stood on the south side of College street, just below the location of the present court house.

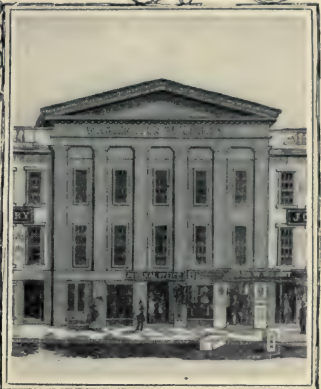
It was not until after Mr. Anthony became editor that the removal was made to the Washington building, still standing on Washington Row, and facing the river. It was while in this centre of activity that the Journal office became the gathering place of the public men who exchanged ideas with its editors and dictated the policy prevailing in the government of the State. Mr. Anthony was most conspicuously associated with his sanctum in this building, where he could be found almost every day, for he had not then entered active political life in Wash-

ington. Many older residents remember the open grate that warmed and cheered the counting room and the desk in the editorial room which was nearly buried with exchanges. Over the stairs was built a "den," where Mr. Angell could find seclusion for his serious work.

The editorial rooms were on the second floor, reached by the stairs ascending from No. 5 Washington Row, while street access to the press and composing rooms was obtained by ascending the stairs at No. 9. At the right of the main entrance was the counting room. In this department Mr. Davis had a desk behind the counter, in front of which "Joe" Bucklin sat while addressing the wrappers for the next morning's mail. With these two was J. Bowers Slade, now the head of the firm of Slade Wilson & Co., and the three constituted the working force in the business office for several years. Senator Anthony had a private office opening from the right of the counting room; but the room in the rear of the business office was the general editorial room, occupied by reporters as well as editors. It was here that the historic Journal "Sunday School" held its sessions.

Before the Journal was moved from the Washington building the question of erecting a home of its own was considered favorably, and in 1868 one-half the Hall block on Weybosset street was bought for the purpose. But this lot did not prove suitable for a newspaper, so the plan of building was abandoned for a time. The Hall block was sold in May, 1872, after the Journal was well established in the Barton block. The place is now occupied by Henry Pearce, the banker, and by the Westminster Bank.





OLD HOMES OF THE JOURNAL.

FLETCHER BUILDING,

COFFEE HOUSE,  
BARTON BLOCK.

WASHINGTON BUILDING,



The transfer from the Washington building to the Barton block, 2 Weybosset street, was an important one, for the office had been identified with Washington Row for twenty-seven years. But it was necessary to place the new presses on the ground floor, and therefore a building adapted to this purpose was needed. In the Barton block the front of the first floor was divided with the Western Union Telegraph Co. In the rear of the counting room was the news room, while the editors, Messrs. Anthony and Danielson, were wedged in back of the telegraph office, and next to the press room, where they were next to the roar of the machinery as it turned out the freshly printed sheets. The reporters were installed on the second floor, while on the third floor a small space was partitioned off from the composing room for the use of the editorial writers. In recounting his experiences in the Barton block, Mr. Manton H. Luther, now in Chicago, thus describes the local room:

"The city room was commodious. It was situated on the second floor of the old Barton block and was nearly large enough to serve the purpose of a lodge hall. At some former period it had been used by a dealer in stoves, and the board floor was seamed and scarred with the marks of the heavy castings that had been dragged over it. Two windows and a loft door opened into the alley, and through these apertures, in warm weather, was wafted an inspiring aroma from 'Billy' Arnold's restaurant kitchen, not always unmingled with odors of a less savory character; and through them also came 'Billy' Arnold's flies to visit us, when they were driven from his famous eating house."

Visitors to the Journal editorial rooms in the Barton block rarely left before they had taken a drink out of the famous old cocoanut dipper, which was one of the established institutions of the place. A pail on a small stand was filled with ice water which could be dipped out with this ladle. When the office was moved from Barton block to the Fletcher building the dipper was taken along, but when visitors lessened in numbers and the germ theory of disease gained strength the old dipper gave way to more modern receptacles. In the special edition of the Journal, describing the new office in the Fletcher building, appeared the following reference to the editorial dipper:

"Filled with pellucid water, cooled and chastened with crystal ice, it has slaked the thirst of generations of Rhode Island statesmen, cheered the parched lips of 'Old Subscriber,' 'Avis,' and 'Pro Bono Publico,' sweetened the draughts of victory and consoled the pangs of defeat of candidates for every office in the gift of the people, and been ever fresh and full like the contents of the newspaper of which it is the emblem and adjunct. Like the Journal itself, while undergoing changes, it has been ever the same. Editors have died or resigned and been succeeded by others; publishers have passed away and others have taken their places; but the newspaper has been perennial. So the hoops of one bucket have been gnawed by the tooth of time or the bottom fallen out from structural weakness; so one cocoanut dipper has been cracked or parted company with the handle. But others have been supplied and the fountain has never failed."

After eighteen years on Weybosset street the Journal was moved to the Fletcher building on Westminster and



Eddy streets. This structure is five stories high and is now being used entirely for publishing purposes by the Journal Company. The well-equipped counting room occupies the entire front on Westminster street, the presses are on the ground floor in the rear and facing on Eddy street, the editorial room is on the second floor, the local news and composing rooms are on the third floor, while on the fourth floor are the Journal barber shop and the gymnasium for employees, who can take advantage of the services of a competent instructor provided by the company. The mailing room is in the rear of the second floor, rooms for editorial writers and a large library are on the fourth floor, and the art department occupies the fifth floor. A lunch room is provided on the third floor in the open space surrounded by the separate compartments for telegraph editors and reporters, where the employees may enjoy their lunches at midday or midnight.

Altogether the office is complete in its provision for the comfort and convenience of the workers. Long distance telephone service is available on three floors, and all the departments are connected by an interior telephone system. On the news room floor are the bound files of all the issues of the Journal and the Bulletin, as well as other local papers. Automatic carriers connect the business and editorial rooms with the composing room, and there are speaking tubes at the desks in addition to the adjustable telephone instruments. An elevator in the Eddy street entrance reaches all the floors. The building is lighted by electricity generated in its own plant. When the east half of the new Journal building has been finished the present offices will be moved into it, so as to allow

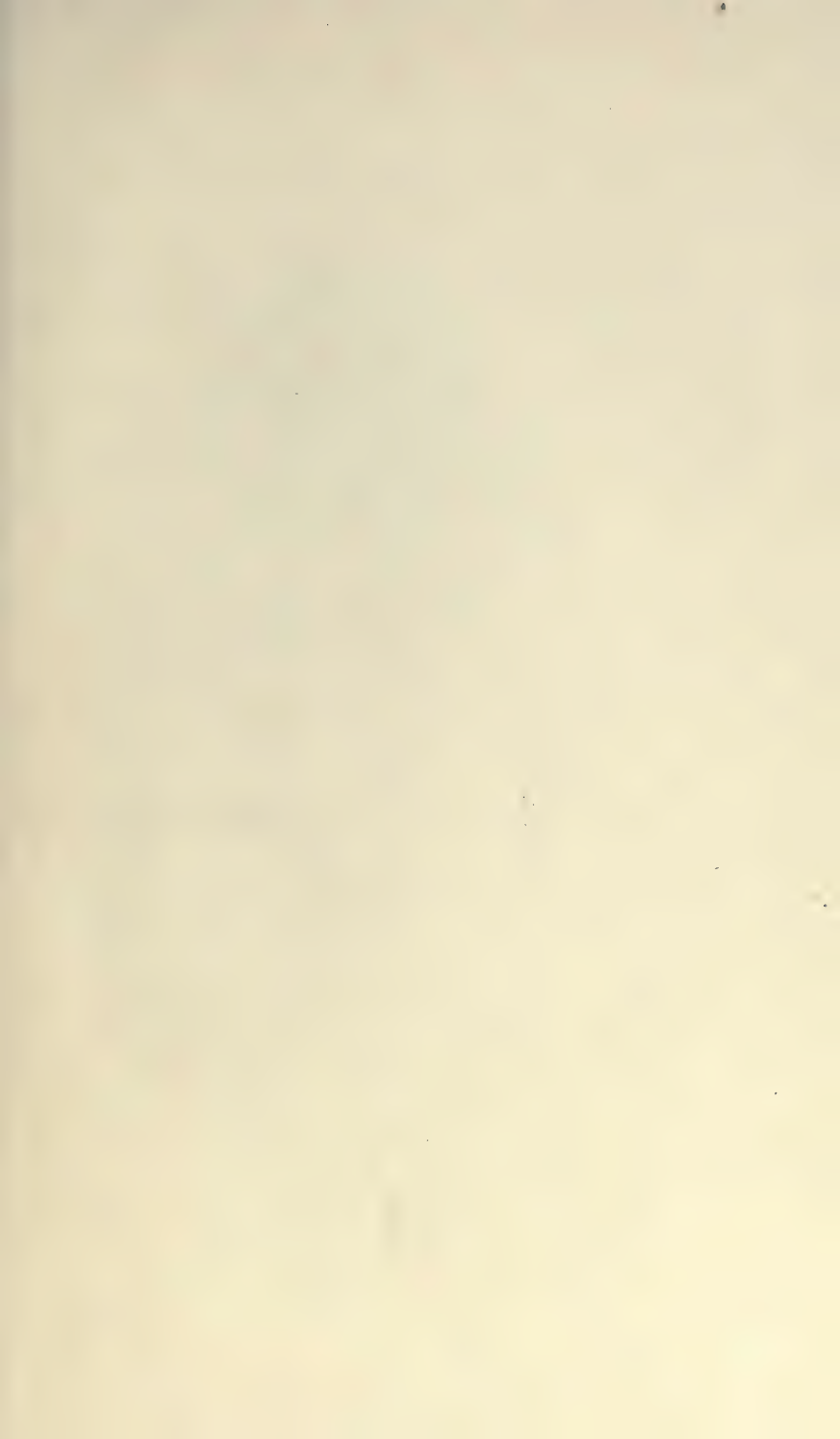
for the completion of the new building over the site of the old without interruption to the employees.

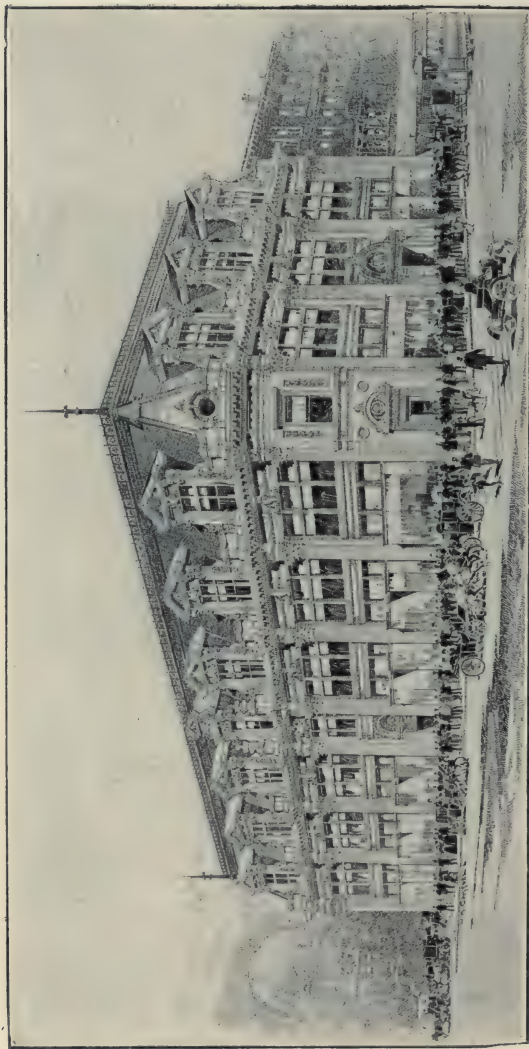
When the new Journal building now in course of erection is completed, Mr. Davis will see the Journal in a home of its own which will be in marked contrast to the quarters occupied by the paper when he first began his labors for the concern. The new Journal building will occupy not only the space now taken up by the present Journal building, but also the adjoining land which was recently acquired by the Journal Company. The new building will cover the combined lots, which will give it a frontage of about 87 feet on Westminster and Fulton streets and 202 feet on Eddy street.

The building will not only be creditable to the newspaper, but also to the city. It will be of three stories. The style of architecture will be Italian Renaissance, which admits of an ornate treatment. The material used for the street fronts will be principally terra cotta except the shafts of the tall columns, which will be of limestone. The terra cotta will have a tooled surface, so that stone and terra cotta will have an uniform gray color and texture.

The maximum amount of light has been obtained in the first and second story by making the bays between columns almost wholly of plate glass. The third story is lighted by large dormers of terra cotta and by overhead skylights, which are concealed from view by the steep pitch roof which forms a parapet. The roof will be of light green slate with finials, crestings, etc. of copper.

The main entrance will be on Westminster street, and the triumphal arch motive will be used here. Iron





THE JOURNAL'S NEW HOME.



bulletin boards will be placed on each side of the entrance, and the wide opening is to be closed by means of ornamental iron gates. The long vestibule and the staircase hall will have a high wainscot of marble, with tinted and panelled walls above, ornamented stucco cornice, and beamed and panelled ceiling. The stairs in the lower hall will be entirely of marble, and the elevator screens and the stairs above the first story of wrought iron in an ornamental design.

The Journal Company's office will open from the staircase hall, and will also have a large separate entrance in the centre of the Eddy street front. The large room is to be finished in marble and oak, with columns and pilasters and mosaic floor. The ceiling will be heavily beamed, and the room lighted by a large overhead skylight. A large amount of space in the Journal office will be devoted to accommodations for the public. The building will be of fireproof construction throughout.

The section of the basement of the new building which will be used exclusively by the Journal Company is of unusual design and construction. The engineers found few precedents for laying water-tight floors about 20 feet below the water level, and the conditions on the lot adjoining the present Journal building at Westminster and Eddy street were peculiarly unfavorable. The mud was extremely fine, and the difficulties of excavation were augmented by the necessity of supporting the adjoining buildings which rest on ordinary foundations about eight feet below the sidewalk. Water-tight sheathing was driven, and the mud, which ran almost as freely as water, was scooped out preparatory to driving piles. An idea

of the character of the soil may be formed from the fact that workmen who stood long in one place were pulled out by derricks, their boots usually being left in the quagmire.

The length of the piles varies from 30 to 40 feet, and the total dead and live load estimated for each is ten tons. The piles are held by friction, there being nothing in the nature of hardpan to support them. The upward pressure of the water on the floor is 6,000 tons, and while the concrete was being laid clay and water were forced through 12 inches of concrete. The floors and walls were water-proofed by ten layers of tarred paper and coal tar pitch.

The progress of work was slow, but it was completed without accident; and early in 1904 a concrete boat 50 by 202 feet was constructed, and its floor is as dry as if it were above tide-water. The upward pressure of the water is met in part by the weight of the walls, this being distributed by curved steel beams extending throughout the floor from wall to wall. This plan reduced the thickness of the concrete and obviated the necessity of deeper excavation.

The basement is divided into three parts. The engine room is in the third, fronting on Westminster street; the boiler room is in the centre, and the presses will be placed on the Fulton street side. The floor of the engine and press room is 18 feet below the sidewalk, and the boiler room and motor pit in the press room are four feet deeper. The concrete floor in the engine and the press rooms is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, and in the boiler room the thickness is from 4 to 7 feet. This is necessitated by the greater

pressure of the water, which even in the motor pit, covering nearly one-third of the press room area, is 1,200 pounds per square foot. In the basement are 4,000 cubic yards of concrete, 300,000 pounds of iron, 300 cubic yards of brick work, 900 piles, and half an acre of water-proofing.

The development of the homes of the Journal has been characteristic of the growth and prosperity of the paper, which successively required more room as it needed presses of greater capacity. In early times the newspaper was generally an adjunct to a printing establishment. The first department to be developed was the editorial room, and this was especially noticeable in the Washington building, where the public seemed to regard the rooms with a sense of ownership. The modern newspaper has space for departments never dreamed of in the early days.





## CHAPTER XI.

### JOURNALISM IN NEW ENGLAND.

The Hartford Courant, Hartford Times, Boston Journal, Boston Transcript, Springfield Republican and Worcester Spy.



## JOURNALISM IN NEW ENGLAND.

In the length of time it has been published, its steady prosperity during seventy-five years, and the comparative consistency of its policy from the first, the record of the Providence Journal has been unique in the history of New England newspapers. This even growth, uninterrupted by financial disaster or revolution in business methods, has been due, perhaps, to the long terms of its proprietors, whose periods of control have overlapped one another sufficiently to insure the continuation of a well-defined policy. The custom that prevailed during the first part of the century of a canvass by a printer, who desired to start a newspaper and wished to learn what assurance it would have of support, did not precede the birth of the Journal, which owed its existence to the rise of a tariff sentiment in opposition to those who feared lest protection might injure the commercial supremacy of such a port as Providence.

It was the cotton spinners and other textile manufacturers of Providence—and, indeed, of all Rhode Island—who gave the initial financial support to the Journal, which at the outset made itself a conspicuous advocate of that protective system for American industries which was then taking definite shape as a national policy; and all through the middle part of the 19th century the paper continued that advocacy unremittingly. In later years, too, there has been no real digression of the Journal from

its original patriotic purpose in this respect, though with the changing of industrial conditions it has, of course, found the truest protection and encouragement of domestic industry in free raw materials, in reciprocity, and in such other modifications of the earlier tariff systems as make for broader markets; at the same time in the interests of home consumers it has urged the reduction of all duties to a revenue basis as fast as domestic producers become able to meet natural competition.

The open rebellion of Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts Spy forced the removal of that newspaper in 1774 from the Tory-tainted atmosphere of Boston to the more loyal colony in Worcester. From Worcester Mr. Thomas attempted to start other newspapers in New England, and he left a record of patriotic service in giving expression to the fervor that carried the Revolution through to its successful close. But nearly fifty years before Isaiah Thomas, James Franklin, the brother of Benjamin Franklin, had established a newspaper in Rhode Island, which was the fourth launched in New England. Yet it is in its career as a daily that the Spy must be compared with the Journal, which began its daily issues in 1829. The Worcester Spy did not appear daily until July 24, 1845, and its prosperity hardly continued unbroken for fifty years, although its publication has been continuous.

A closer resemblance to the history of the Journal is seen in the Hartford Courant, which has been published as a daily since 1837. The Courant was established as a weekly in 1764, and has been issued ever since from practically the same home, which was remodelled and



rebuilt in 1879. Another similarity has been in the long service of its editor, Joseph R. Hawley, in the United States Senate, from which he has until recently dictated its policy. Since the conspicuous part he took in the Civil War General Hawley has occupied an editorial position similar to that of the late Senator Anthony, with whom he was so long associated in Washington.

Not unlike the positions of Senator Anthony and Senator Hawley was that of Senator W. E. Chandler of New Hampshire, owner of the Concord Monitor, which he managed when a member of the upper House in Congress, although newspaper ownership by public men in New England is by no means common to-day, so exacting are the duties of the publisher.

There are features in the growth of the Hartford Times and its long ownership by Mr. A. E. Burr that remind one of the Providence Journal, especially the gatherings of eminent party men in the office to discuss questions of the day. The Times is Democratic, and the men attracted to its office gathered there afternoons when the paper had gone to press, or in the evening; but otherwise one might see a resemblance to the group of men composing Senator Anthony's "Sunday School," who were at first principally Whigs and afterwards Republicans. The positive type of Mr. Burr's views was illustrated by the fact that when foreman of the Courant office in 1839 he refused to buy an interest in that paper because the conditions of the purchase included the promise to join the Whig party and the Congregational church. Mr. Burr's editorial connection with the Times was longer than that of Senator Anthony with the Journal, for he had been over

sixty years in the harness when he died in 1900. The Times was first issued as a morning daily in 1841, shortly after Mr. Burr became the owner, but he soon realized that there was a better field for an evening edition in Hartford, especially as he expected to find his strongest constituency among the working people who can read more in the evening after the day's work is through. In its mechanical development the Hartford Times has shown the same enterprise and disposition to keep abreast of the latest improvements as the Journal has, and its new building, erected in 1898, is a model of convenience.

In point of long service in connection with a newspaper, William Durant of the Boston Transcript, who died December 31, 1903, after seventy years in the office, attained a distinction which was perhaps without precedent. He entered the employ of the Transcript when a lad of eighteen, and became a director and treasurer of the company. At his funeral there were present sixteen members of the staff, who had each served over thirty years on the paper.

The Springfield Republican holds a unique position in New England journalism because it has been owned continuously by a member of the Bowles family since it was founded by Samuel Bowles, grandfather of the present publisher. The daily edition was started with an evening issue in 1844, largely through the influence of the second Samuel Bowles, then a young man. Under this son's management it rose to prominence among American newspapers.

For a long time the Boston Journal was conducted along lines similar to those that determined the policy of the

Providence Journal, and when news had to be gained by clipping from exchanges each found the columns of the other particularly valuable. It was launched as the *Mercantile Journal* in 1833, four years after the *Manufacturers' and Farmers' Journal* began to issue a daily in Providence, and until recent years it consistently advocated party principles so warmly as to be considered an organ by Republicans. The relations of the *Boston Journal* to its Providence neighbor were particularly close during the administration of Col. William W. Clapp, who soon after Mr. Danielson's death succeeded to the presidency of the New England Press Association.











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